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**GLOXINIAN**

*The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*

Vol. 55, No. 4

Fourth Quarter 2005



*Sinningia 'Amizade'*

# American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

*A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri*

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**Gesneriad Hybridizers Association** — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8 (\$9 outside U.S.A.). Send to Martha Lacy, 260 Stoddards Wharf Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 <wlacy@snet.net>.

**Newsletter Editors** — *Newsviews*, free to editors; \$6 subscription to others. Contact Leslie Milde, 373 Main St., P.O. Box 14, Fremont, NH 03044 <meribush@aol.com>

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**British Streptocarpus Society** — <[www.streptocarpussociety.org.uk](http://www.streptocarpussociety.org.uk)> To join from the USA/Canada send \$10 check payable to Dale Martens, 1247 Island View Dr., Sherrard, Illinois 61281. To join from any other country, send £7 or 10£ to Don Corfield, 1019 Warwick Rd, Acocks Green, Birmingham, England, B27 6QJ.

**Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** — 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 (914-366-5731) <[www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org)> Gardens open 364 days a year from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission fee; members free. Outdoor gardens, tropical display house, tree lab, al fresco lunch cafe, plant, book and gift shops.

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**OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY** — The objects of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc. are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads, to stimulate a widespread interest in, and gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars.

**GESNERIAD REGISTRATION** — The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the names and cultivars of gesneriads excepting the genus *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, CT 06068 <jbecker@mohawk.net>.

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*Sinningia* 'Amizade' –  
exhibited by Arleen Dewell  
and awarded Best in Show  
at the 2005 Convention  
(photo by Bob Stewart)

# President's Message

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Carol Ann Bonner <cabonner@gmail.com>  
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

There's a picture of me as a somewhat chubby little girl of about four posing next to a stand of African violets on my grandmother's front porch. I'm wearing patent leather shoes, a pastel dress and pinafore, and my dark-brown braids are tied with matching pastel ribbons. The violets had floppy solid boy leaves and single blue or bicolor flowers that were anything but "stick-tight". That was fifty years ago.

I'm not four anymore. I don't wear pinafores, my hair isn't braided nor dark brown, but sadly I am still somewhat chubby. Hybrid African violets, too, have changed a lot in the intervening decades: they come in every color but orange, there are different types of variegation, there are chimeras, frilly doubles, fantasies, tiny miniatures and huge standards.

Plants and people aren't the only things that change over time – organizations do, too. The American Gloxinia Society that was started by a teenage boy and a housewife in 1951 wasn't the same as the society that changed its name in the mid-sixties to the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. By that time, the original emphasis on *Sinningia speciosa* (florist gloxinia) had diminished as other members of this diverse family attracted proponents.

By the twenty-first century, our Society has changed again, not in focus, but in membership. Over a fifth of our members live outside the United States; our largest chapter is the Gesneriasts of Sweden; last year our photography and publications committees collaborated with the authors on a Russian language book about gesneriads. In a world in which correspondence between a hobbyist in Asia, a collector in Africa, and a commercial grower in the U.S. is easier and faster than the trip to a local garden center to buy potting mix, we have become an international organization.

Apparently, our membership agrees because this year we voted to change the name of our organization from the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society to The Gesneriad Society. Not flashy, perhaps, but descriptive – one society welcoming all lovers of gesneriads worldwide. Likewise, THE GLOXINIAN will become GESNERIADS – simple, to the point, no convoluted explanations of how "Gloxinia" really refers to *Sinningia speciosa*, but it was misclassified, and there really is a Gloxinia but it's a different plant... and you've already lost your audience. We want people outside our specialized horticultural world to learn the word "gesneriad" just like they know the word "orchid". Gesneriads! Members of the plant family



that includes African violets, goldfish plants, florist gloxinias, lipstick plants, flame violets and many other beautiful plants that you can grow and flower in your own home!

It's easy to sell the idea of gesneriads, isn't it? Gesneriad growers often mention the diversity of flower shapes and colors, or attractive fuzzy foliage, but I like the fact that a lot of gesneriads go dormant. That means you can grow plants that over-wintered in a closet into gorgeous hanging baskets or tubs for your deck, patio, or balcony – but that's only part of the appeal. I love that on the dreariest days of winter, I can check my box of rhizomes and often find something just waking up. No matter how long I've been growing that plant, it's like getting a new one each and every year. And when the tiny leaves peek above the soil, they themselves look a bit like fresh blossoms, especially when the awakening plant is a *Sinningia*. Every sprouting tuber or rhizome is a bit of spring reminding me that the real spring is just around the corner.

So, now that you've got your audience sold on growing gesneriads, why should they join a society? Let's back up for a minute and talk about the beneficial health effects of hobbies in general. Did you know that intellectually stimulating activities may actually help prevent Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia? And you thought the more difficult botanical names were just there to be cumbersome – no, they're like Stairmasters for your mind. Speaking of Stairmasters, hobbies can provide exercise for the body, too (although growing miniature *Sinningias* may not count unless you buy your potting supplies in very large quantities). A third necessity for good health in the gregarious human species is social connections – conveniently made available through participation in hobbyist organizations such as your local chapter and The Gesneriad Society.

For me, growing gesneriads has fulfilled each of these health-promoting functions as well as a couple of others not mentioned above. I've gotten physical exercise not only from lugging bales of sphagnum moss and potting mix, but also from building three greenhouses. Intermittent taxonomic reorganization of genera within the Gesneriaceae should keep anyone's faculties limber, but I also have to remember the names of plants because I keep losing their labels. As for social connections, the ultimate diet and workout could never match the benefits of the wonderful friendships I've made through my local chapter and The Gesneriad Society.

Now here are two additional benefits. The first is travel. Every year since my first convention in 1992, I've spent almost a week in a different city in a different part of the country. (Every year, that is, except 1999 when the convention was in Nashville and the farthest I traveled was to the bus company on the north side of town.) When would I have gone to Kansas City if not for our convention? And yet I found there a delightful downtown and a fantastic botanical garden that I otherwise would never have experienced. And I've now been on a boat tour of the Louisiana bayou, visited Green Animals in Rhode Island and seen the Chinese Garden in Portland – all via our annual conventions. Beyond that, I've been to Ecuador and Brazil to study gesneriads in their native habitats, adventures I'd previously only imagined.

The second additional benefit is actually the first thing we notice about gesneriads – their beauty. When I stop for a moment and examine the color or pattern or symmetry of a flower, that's a moment I'm not thinking about

stresses from work, domestic political issues, the price of car repairs, or foreign wars. All I'm thinking about is how marvelous a work this single flower is. As long as there is beauty in the world, there will be joy and hope. And, guess what? Optimistic people are healthier people.

So, now you know what to tell people when you're talking about our favorite plants – for a long healthy life, grow gesneriads!

*Carol Ann*



Carol Ann Bonner receiving flowers and the official presidential gavel from Susan Grose

## Convention Board Review 2005

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Peter Shalit, Recording Secretary  
Seattle, Washington, USA

The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society held its 2005 Annual Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The Society's Board, led by outgoing President Susan Grose and by incoming President Carol Ann Bonner, met on July 5th, 8th, 9th, and 10th. In addition, the annual General Membership Meeting was held on Friday, July 8th.

The Board elected the following officers for a term ending in 2007: Carol Ann Bonner, President; Bill Price, First Vice President; Paul Susi, Second Vice President; and Peter Shalit, Recording Secretary.

Several new Committee Chairs are taking office. M.J. Tyler is replacing Arleen Dewell as Chapters and Affiliates Chair. Peter Shalit is replacing Pat Richards as Publications Chair. Suzie Larouche is replacing Peter Shalit as

Review Committee Chair. Debra LaVergne is replacing Helen Freidberg as Parliamentarian and Bylaws Chair. Paul Susi is replacing Helen as Conventions Chair.

As Bob and Carol Connelly have long wanted to be relieved of their Seed Fund duties, a decision was made to ease the burden and split the Seed Fund responsibilities. Two Co-Chairs will share the duties of distributing seed: Carolyn Ripps will handle species seed; and Gussie Farrice will handle hybrid seed. They will be aided by other individuals on their committee who will clean and process seed donations.

The Society is in need of a Finance Committee Chair as Elizabeth Varley has resigned. In addition, Treasurer Helen Bortvedt has announced her intention to step down, so we will be needing a new Treasurer. If you have interest in serving on the Finance Committee, please contact our President. If you may be interested in the Treasurer position, please contact Bob Clark, new chair of our Nominating Committee. Contact information can be found in the front of this journal.

The Board agreed that the Society will donate \$250 to Mauro Peixoto in support of his work in the preservation of gesneriads in Brazil. The Board also voted to authorize an annual grant of \$2,500 to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, for the next five years, to be used in support of gesneriad research. Annual renewal would be contingent on the Gardens' providing the Society with a yearly progress report, including an accounting of the funds expended. This grant would not preclude consideration of applications for support of additional specific projects, which would be considered on an ad hoc basis.

The General Membership meeting was the forum for several important announcements and actions.

Treasurer Helen Bortvedt announced that the late Nellie Sleeth, long-time AGGS Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, has left the Society over \$150,000 donated to specific Funds of the Society. (Please see Special Contributions on page 29.)

President Susan Grose announced the results of the mail ballots regarding Bylaws Amendments that would change the name of our Society to "The Gesneriad Society" and our Journal to "GESNERIADS". Both proposals passed by greater than the two-thirds majority needed. The Board is working on the transition, and it is planned that it will be essentially accomplished over the next six months.

The Membership voted affirmatively on the Bylaws Amendment regarding the status of Gesneriad Society Affiliates as published in the 2Q05 issue of THE GLOXINIAN.

The Membership also voted to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of Directors for the three-year term ending in 2008: Helen Bortvedt, Tom Bruning, Gussie Farrice, David Harley, Toshijiro Okuto, Carolyn Ripps, and Vivian Scheans.

Molly Schneider presented Awards of Appreciation for 2005 to Helen M. Bortvedt, Helen D. Freidberg, and Susan A. Grose. (See the article on page 26).

Finally, under the guidance of Treasurer Helen Bortvedt, The Gesneriad Society Board crafted a Budget for the Year 2006, and adjourned until next year. See you all in Rochester!

## Seed Fund Donations

Effective immediately, please follow these new instructions for mailing seed donations:

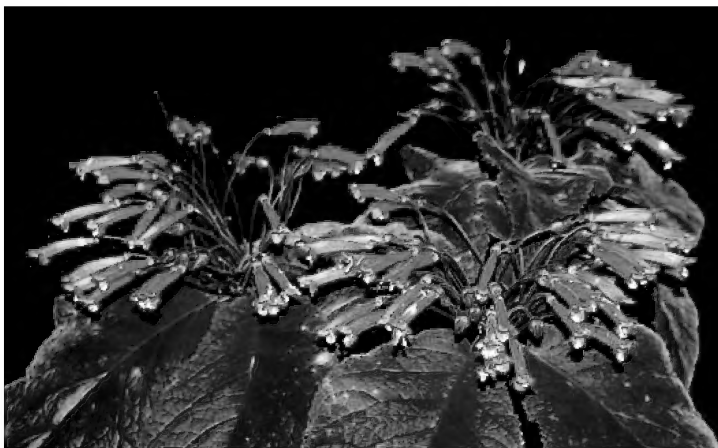
Donations mailed from  
anywhere in the United States  
should be sent to:

**Karyn Cichocki**  
**79 Beaver Run Road**  
**Lafayette, NJ 07848**

Donations from outside the U.S.A.  
(Canada and other international  
locations) should be sent to:

**Marilyn Allen**  
**8 Brackenridge Place**  
**Port Moody, BC, Canada V3H 4G4**

New instructions regarding seed ordering will appear in the  
First Quarter issue of our journal.



*Sinningia leopoldii* grown by Bill Price was awarded Best Gesneriad  
Exhibiting Fruit at the 2005 Convention Flower Show  
(endowed award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter  
in memory of Maryjane Evans)

## Seed Fund

---

Bob and Carol Connelly <Bob\_Connelly@email.msn.com>  
2391 Phillips Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2450

**A**t the time we are writing this column, it is just after the Portland Convention. We have heard that it was a wonderful convention, but unfortunately we were not able to attend. We did send seed packets to the convention so that attendees were able to get seed, but we were really disappointed at not being able to attend as we were looking forward to seeing the Northwest area for the first time. Bob was a victim of cutbacks after almost 20 years with the same company (EDS) and even with the severance package that was soon to arrive, we decided it was not a good time for us to be spending money on a trip to convention. Bob is researching his options which range from finding a new job to possibly some combination of early retire-



ment and starting his own computer consulting business. Hopefully everything will work out for the best in the long run, and we can look forward to seeing many of you in Rochester next year.

It does look like there is an end in sight for our administration of the Seed Fund. There are volunteers to take over managing the Seed Fund, and although there are many details to be worked out, this should be our last Seed Fund column. We would like to thank all of you for your patience over the years, and we will miss the correspondence with so many wonderful people around the world.

Please continue to send your orders to the same address above and we will make sure they get to the proper place until the details get worked out and a new address is provided in this column. There will probably be some significant changes in how the Seed Fund is run and how orders are handled, and there may be some additional delays as we transition so please be patient.

We would like to thank the most recent contributors to the Seed Fund for their generosity: Marilyn Allen, Jason Brunell, Helen Bortvedt, Karyn Cichocki, Arleen Dewell, Nancy Gilson, Kyoko Imai, Naomi Pitts, Bill Price, Carolyn Ripps, Rob & Olive Ma Robinson, Peter Shalit, Elaine Stutt, Tom Talpey, Gary & Rhona Thurman, Timothy Tuttle, and Wallace Wells.

### ADDITIONS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Columnnea</i> 'Bold Adventure' × self (B)</li> <li>• <i>Sinningia cardinalis</i> 'Skydiver' (LM)</li> <li><i>Sinningia cooperi</i> AC1522 (M)</li> <li>• <i>Sinningia speciosa</i> 'Cabo Frio' (F,L)</li> <li><i>Sinningia speciosa</i> 'Carangola'</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sinningia</i> sp. "Ibitioca" (LM)</li> <li><i>Sinningia glazioviana</i> × <i>leopoldii</i> F2 (LM)</li> <li><i>Sinningia</i> "Humming Bee" hybrid mix</li> <li>• denotes LIMITED quantities</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

### DELETIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Aeschynanthus micranthus</i></li> <li><i>Alloplectus tenuis</i> JLC6124</li> <li><i>Besleria barbata</i> USBRG98-052</li> <li><i>Briggsia aurantiaca</i></li> <li><i>Briggsia speciosa</i></li> <li><i>Codonanthe crassifolia</i> GRF9869</li> <li><i>Dalbergaria mastersonii</i></li> <li><i>Dalbergaria</i> sp. GRF97160</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Henckelia incana</i></li> <li><i>Moussonia elegans</i></li> <li><i>Nematanthus fluminensis</i></li> <li><i>Sinningia magnifica</i> MP627</li> <li><i>Streptocarpus galpinii</i></li> <li><i>Streptocarpus haygarthii</i>/Inchanga,</li> <li>Kwazulu</li> <li><i>Tremacron aurantiacum</i></li> </ul> |
|---|--|

### Seed Packets — \$1.50 each

#### Please

- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa (\$6.00 minimum)
- Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (non-U.S. orders may include International Postal Coupons or have the postage added to their credit card bill)
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

#### Note

- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
- There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
- There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

# "A Gathering of Friends" — Convention 2005 in Portland, Oregon

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Tim Tuttle <plantman87@hotmail.com>  
Lafayette, Tennessee, USA

Gesneriads bring people closer. Their ease of propagation from even the tiniest piece of live tissue makes them the perfect family of plants for sharing. It is often through the act of sharing that people become friends. As an organization, our annual convention is a time for us to come together as a "family" of friends and share our plants, our knowledge, and our time together. It is true that convention comes and goes every year but this one, hosted by the Mt. Hood Chapter in Portland, was truly wonderful in every way. From the sensational weather to the glorious hotel (complete with a plentiful supply of delicious food, quality service, and luxurious rooms), the setting could not have been better for what proved to be a spectacular convention. Top all that off with a show room filled with a diverse and very high-quality collection of show plants and, of course, our "family" of friends, and you have a convention that is sure to be remembered among the best!

On Tuesday, Molly Schneider and I left Nashville and headed for convention. That afternoon, during our lay-over in the Phoenix airport, we met Dale Martens and her husband Mel. Later, as the plane approached Portland, I got my first glimpse of the magnificent, snow-capped Mt. Hood rising above the clouds. I knew then that I was in for a treat. After a short ride from the airport, we arrived at the historic Multnomah Hotel, built in 1912. We were met in the hotel lobby by Paul Kroll, greetings were exchanged, and plans were made immediately for dinner that evening ... after all, one has to keep up one's strength!

Within an hour of arriving, the exchange of cuttings and rhizomes had begun. Gesneriad growers are the most giving people I've ever known, and we just love to share with each other. I checked into my room and soon was off to orient myself to the area and take a walk around town. Those on the Board of Directors remained committed and devoted to their elected responsibilities, enduring hours of discussion, planning and debate. Meanwhile, those of us who are not on the Board, continued to socialize, greet new arrivals, and reminisce. The ornate hotel lobby, and nightly managers cocktail reception, made for a most enjoyable beginning to convention.

Dinner that evening brought more friends, laughter, and great stories. Bill Price, ever the perfectionist, ate his dinner in fifteen-minute "shifts". We soon discovered he had set the alarm on his watch to go off every fifteen minutes while he ran the shower in his room in a calculated attempt to coax a beloved plant into opening a few blossoms in time for the show. Bill gave his plants more attention during the course of one dinner than I give mine in a week! We would see in the showroom later in the week how this attention paid off! Bill's frequent trips back and forth to his room, to check his plants and adjust the shower flow, naturally led to stories of conventions past. A great time was spent reminiscing around the dinner table with friends.

Wednesday is traditionally the official "start" of convention, and a very full day. Being a Student Judge, I spent the day attending Judging School. I must say that the choice of Arleen Dewell and Paul Kroll to "team-teach" the

program was an excellent one. The many complex facets of judging were reviewed followed by lively discussion and interaction ... and, of course, the dreaded "photo ID's" of gesneriads! While we were in class, the Master and Senior Judges attended what I heard was an excellent workshop on photography presented by Ron Long. Ron must have done his job well as the effects of this program could be seen and heard during the critique of the show later in the week as comments were read and discussion made about the photography classes. The annual meeting of the Judge's Interest Group followed the afternoon school session. Attendance was excellent, and discussions were lively as different ideas and opinions were voiced. We may disagree or have different perspectives about judging our beloved plants, but an abundance of laughter and respect is always thrown in. Gesneriad judges always seem to have such fun debating with each other.

Wednesday evening was the official welcome reception hosted by the Mt. Hood Chapter. Gesneriads definitely "reigned" as we all donned crowns and royal finery. Some members brought their own crowns from home or dressed specially for the occasion. I even heard talk of a trailing *Saintpaulia* with three crowns! A great time was had by all, and friendships were begun and renewed!



Local Convention Chair  
Vivian Scheans with  
Jon Dixon, Michael  
Riley and Bill Price at  
the welcome reception  
"Reigning Gesneriads"

After a delicious buffet dinner (one of several during the week!), we all headed off to the first program of convention. The Gesneriad Hybridizers Association (GHA) meeting is always the highlight of Wednesday night, and this year was no different. No matter how much fun everyone is having reuniting and catching up, everyone manages to stop long enough to make it to THIS meeting! We all "Oooohed" and "Aahhhed" with each slide as Dale Martens presented her usual superb program on new hybrids from around the world.

This year, the focus was mainly on *Sinningia* hybridizing. Spectacular progress is obviously being made in the efforts to produce new directions in breeding *Sinningias*. Many of them were Dale's beautiful hybrids including a new *Sinningia* 'Wow!' ... a calyx double flower ... with STRIPES! Can you stand it? In Dale's hands, pollen and genetics seem to produce new forms and patterns that no one else can achieve. Maybe it's the tomato fertilizer? A truly magical touch! Dale also mixed in a few hybrids of other genera, and dis-

played a banner, awards, and photos from Australia of Charles Lawn's award-winning *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids along with Ruth Coulson's outstanding hybrids ... several of which were to be in the raffle later! How much longer could we stand it!? We all waited eagerly for the raffle to begin, tickets in hand, a slight trickle of drool from our mouths ... wait, what number did they just call? Was it mine? Are you sure? I thought I heard my number?!! And, as usual, Dale saved the best prizes for last. At this meeting it pays to be last. Too soon it was over, Day 1 had come to a close, and we all headed back to our rooms with our new treasures in hand to get some rest for Day 2.

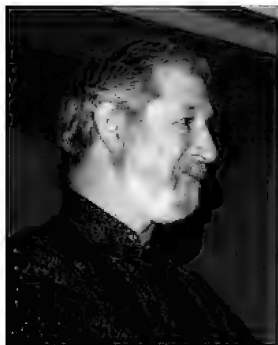
Each morning we gathered for the bountiful, complimentary breakfast buffet. This was an especially convenient and tasty feature of the hotel, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. After a hearty breakfast, it was off for a busy day of tours. We began with a short walk to the Chinese Garden. Called the "Garden of the Awakening Orchid", this relatively new garden was especially lovely and serene, and very fragrant – a delight to the senses in every regard. The tour guide was most informative and entertaining as she gave us background information about the garden, history of Chinese city gardens, and also shared legends and stories from ancient China. We also had time at the end to roam, contemplate the beauty of the garden, and relax. Then we boarded the bus for a short ride to the Japanese Gardens and the International Rose Test Gardens.



Plant Sales Chairs: Debra & Alan LaVergne



Tim Tuttle



Judging School Speaker:  
Photographer Ron Long



Flower Show Chair:  
Peter Shalit



Judges Chair:  
Bob Clark



Conventioneers enjoying a stroll through the Japanese Gardens

The Japanese Gardens in Portland are the largest and most authentic outside of Japan. I was amazed at the meticulous care in tending to every tiny detail of each garden, and then learned that all of this was achieved with a staff of only five gardeners. The gardens had beautiful water features, magnificent Japanese maples, conifers, and moss everywhere. I could have stayed there forever!

A hearty lunch was enjoyed among the roses in the Rose Test Garden. We then had time to roam about and enjoy the thousands of roses in bloom. Two that I recall in particular which got quite a bit of comment were the varieties 'Irish Creme' and 'Honey Mustard'. These two cultivars had to be seen to truly appreciate the colors, and the names fit perfectly. Since I'd just had a ham sandwich for lunch, they were my favorites.

We arrived at the hotel by mid-afternoon in time for exhibitors to spend time grooming their plants as the opening of entries approached. That evening, after the cocktail reception, a group of us set out, map in hand, to have dinner at an Italian restaurant called "Mama Mia's". We found the place, without incident, in spite of the fact that I had the map. We enjoyed another delicious and relaxing meal, with friends, as more stories were shared. So many stories, in fact, that we lost track of time, and were late getting back for early entries to the Plant Sales room. Wish lists were referenced, boxes were filled, and cash flowed. I am always amazed at the amount of plant material that is available at convention plant sales. It is certainly a great opportunity to find new and rare plants. Columnneas, Episcias, and Kohlerias were especially numerous, and I, of course, had to have a few of each. Then it was on to the Silent Auction room for the first round of bidding on other choice items there. Too soon, another great day was over and it was off to bed to rest up for another busy day on Friday.

Show day always comes early for judges and clerks, and even earlier for those who volunteer to orchestrate it all! After another great breakfast, the judges and clerks met outside the show room for instructions from the capable Bob Clark. Teams were formed and class assignments were distributed. I must say that I enjoyed working with my team of Paul Susi and Fay Wagman, with Carol Ann Bonner as our expert clerk. The show, although slightly smaller in the number of entries, was not deficient in the least when it came to quality and diversity with excellent plants, designs, and arts material. The judges really had their work cut out for them. Still, judging

progressed in a timely and efficient manner. After judging, there was a short time to view the show before the Annual Membership Meeting and luncheon. This year's luncheon was memorable. Our superb President, Susan Grose, chaired her final membership meeting after four years as AGGS President. We also heard the official announcement that the name of our organization is now "The Gesneriad Society", and the name of our publication is now "GESNERIADS".

At this time, we saw how truly effective the hotel staff was at transforming a meeting room – within forty-five minutes, the luncheon tables were cleared and the room was made ready for the first lecture of the convention. The first program, given by Toshijiro Okuto, was a presentation entitled "Playing with *Streptocarpus*". Toshijiro has created some highly desirable *Streptocarpus* hybrids using rosette and unifoliate species, and has learned much about dominance and inheritance from the progeny of many crosses using these species. He also has worked toward creating a yellow-flowered *Streptocarpus* and hybrids that are truly miniature in size. A great talk indeed! We then had an hour's time to go back to see the show or visit plant sales or the auction. The next lecture, presented by Eric Roalson from the University of Washington, was a program entitled "Reorganization of the *Gloxinieae* Tribe Based on Molecular and Morphological Datasets". Much discussion followed about the future need to change plant labels.



Convention speakers Ingrid Lindskog, Eric Roalson, and Toshijiro Okuto

Friday evening was the annual Awards Banquet, and everyone arrived dressed in their finery. I was seated early and was able to spend a few minutes watching the attendees as they came in for the dinner. As I saw the smiles, the hugs, and the exchanges of cuttings, plants, hints, and stories, I was reminded of how much knowing such great people as these enhances a wonderful hobby of growing gesneriads – the best of friends and the best of plant families, all in one venue. Soon another superb meal was devoured, and it was time to hear the show awards announced. The awards are always a special way to remember friends and honor friendships. It is as rewarding to hear the tributes expressed as awards are announced as it is to hear who won and to see the delight of the winners. Jo Anne Martinez presented the awards for the first time as Awards Chair. Arleen Dewell won Best In Show for her exquisitely grown *Sinningia* 'Amizade', a hybrid whose cultivar name appropriately honors "friendship". Arleen was visibly overcome with joy, and

physically overwhelmed with hugs and congratulations from friends as she made her way back to her seat. Apparently all of Bill Price's attention to his show entries paid off as he was awarded Sweepstakes in Horticulture with 14 blue ribbons.

Saturday arrived, the final day of convention. Another very full day, and a bittersweet day, as I realized the week was almost over. Early that morning, Ben Paternoster led the Judge's Critique of the Flower Show. This is always a great way to learn about the judging process, and also to learn about unfamiliar plant material and how to grow and judge it. It is open to clerks and judges, and I would encourage everyone to sign up to clerk and attend the critique whenever you have the chance. Saturday is also the day for public viewing of the show. I enjoy roaming around the showroom and listening and watching the public react to the show and the plants. It is always fun to talk with people who are new to and interested in gesneriads, and I welcome the chance to give back some of the help that so many people have given me over the years as I continue to learn about gesneriads. It is also a good time to study new plants and to read score sheets and comments from the judges.

Our last lecture entitled "Gesneriads in Houseplant Heaven (Sweden)" was presented by Ingrid Lindskog. Ingrid related stories about growing gesneriads in Sweden and showed pictures of gesneriads grown in their homes and then exhibited in their shows. Following the lecture, there was just time to return to the Silent Auction room to frantically write down final bids as the minutes were counted down to closing.

Lunch on Saturday is always great fun, as this is the time for the Live Auction – this year in support of the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund. In 2000 during my first convention in Tampa, I attended my first Live Auction and made some great and lasting friendships as a consequence of my winning bids at that auction so I always save up to be able to bid high and support our fine causes. The antics of the Auction team and the bidders are perhaps my favorite "entertainment" at convention. This year the auction team did an efficient, extraordinary job, and the auction was loads of fun. Winning bidders are often willing to share their winnings, which I think is another tribute to the strength of our organization. And who can soon forget Michael Riley modeling this season's *Columnnea* coiffures – Michael, you never looked better!



Judges Critique



Michael Riley

The final official event for conventioners this year was a sternwheeler cruise on the Columbia River. On the way to the ship our tour bus stopped, allowing us time to take pictures at a mountaintop view of the river gorge and also at the magnificent Multnomah Falls. Fine food, even better company, and breathtaking scenery made for a relaxing and very classy finale to a most enjoyable week.

I know that putting together such an event as this convention from the point of conceptualization to the final event is a monumental task. The Mt. Hood chapter proved that the size of a chapter is not a direct correlation to the event's success. The achievements this year for such a small chapter were superior in every way. I heard many times during the week how much everyone was enjoying the accommodations and the events. The decision to spend a precious week of our time attending convention is a significant one. Time is precious in life. As I reflect now on Convention 2005, I am truly grateful to have decided to spend this week in the company of AGGS members. Growing gesneriads enriches our lives, but the people we know through growing them, and the friendships we develop through this association, are some of life's greatest gifts. I'm so grateful to have been a part of this gathering of friends.



Mt. Hood Chapter members: (top L-R) Shirley Nieminen, Maggie Gibson, Ingrid Lindskog, Vincent Parsons, Hal Schrauger, Rosemary Schrauger; (bottom L-R) Bill Walsh, Kathie Kleinsmith, Vivian Scheans



# 2005 Convention Flower Show Awards

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Jo Anne Martinez, Awards Chair <4jam@verizon.net>  
Tampa, Florida USA

I am extremely grateful to the many members and chapters who donated awards. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by me, our Society, and the many exhibitors who bring their plants hundreds of miles to the conventions. Recognizing the exceptional plants and exhibits and watching the excitement on members' faces is so much fun. I want to thank Colleen Turley for helping me this first year as Awards Chair. Anytime I had a question, she had all the answers. The GHA award for the Best Recently Registered Gesneriad was not awarded this year and will be carried over to next year's convention in Rochester, New York. The winners from the 2005 Convention Flower Show held in Portland are as follows:

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE** – to Bill Price for 14 blue ribbons, a cash award from the New England Chapter in memory of Jessie Crisafulli



*Chirita* Collection (*C. sinensis* 'Angustifolia', *C. walkerae*, *C. 'Cynthia'*, *C. sp.* USBRG98-083, *C. speciosa* 'Aiko Sky') – one of the 14 blue-ribbon entries that earned Bill Price Sweepstakes in Horticulture

**RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE** – to Arleen Dewell for 5 blue ribbons, a cash award from Bill Price

**BEST IN SHOW** – to Arleen Dewell for *Sinningia* 'Amizade', a cash award from the Long Island Chapter in memory of Jack Zippin and a cash award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society

**RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN SHOW** – to Arleen Dewell for *Sinningia* 'Peridots Darth Vader', a cash award from the Delaware Gesneriad Society and a cash award from Helen Bortvedt in memory of E.J. Grimstad

**2ND RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN SHOW** – to Bill Price for *Kohleria hirsuta* (?), a cash award from Molly Schneider in honor of Helen Freidberg

**BEST ARTISTIC** – to Olive Ma Robinson for her arrangement "Come Rain or Come Shine", a cash award from the Culver City Gesneriad Society in memory of Ethel Ashby and a cash award from Leslie Milde

**RUNNER-UP TO BEST ARTISTIC** – to Olive Ma Robinson for her arrangement "September in the Rain", a cash award from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society and a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez

**BEST IN THE ARTS** – to Dale Martens for her photograph of a *Sinningia* Calyx, a cash award from the Peninsula Chapter in honor of Celine Chase for her service to local and national gesneriad organizations

**BEST NEW WORLD TUBEROUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER** – to Arleen Dewell for *Sinningia* 'Amizade', a cash award from Judith Fox in memory of Stan Schwartz and a cash award from Alan and Janis Mink

**BEST NEW WORLD RHIZOMATOUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER** – to Bill Price for *Diastema comiferum*, a cash award from Doris Carson and a cash award from Suzie Larouche

**BEST NEW WORLD FIBROUS-ROOTED IN FLOWER** – to Bill Price for *Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo', a cash award from the Twin Cities Chapter and a cash award from John & Doris Brownlie in honor of Daphne Yaremko, a true and willing helper

**BEST OLD WORLD GESNERIAD IN FLOWER** – to Bill Price for *Saintpaulia* 'Sundown Trail', a cash award from the National Capital Chapter and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

**BEST GESNERIAD GROWN FOR ORNAMENTAL QUALITIES** – to Robert Clark for *Petrocosmea forrestii*, a cash award from the Culver City Chapter in memory of Susan Gregory and a cash award from the Delaware Gesneriad Society

**BEST NEW GESNERIAD** – to Arleen Dewell for *Sinningia* 'Peridots Darth Vader', a cash award from the Peninsula Gesneriad Society in honor of Celine Chase for her service to local and national gesneriad organizations and a cash award from Vivian Hiltz

**BEST LESSER-KNOWN GESNERIAD** – to Paul Kroll for *Napeanthus costaricensis*, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in memory of Maryjane Evans and a cash award from Leslie Milde

**BEST COLLECTION OF GESNERIADS** – to Bill Price for his *Chirita* collection, a cash award from Dale Martens and a cash award from the Grow & Study Chapter

**BEST TRAINED OR SCULPTURED GESNERIAD** – to Marilyn Allen for *Cobananthus calochlamys*, a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in memory of departed friends and a cash award from the Puget Sound Chapter

**BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT AND/OR GROWING MATERIAL** – to Olive Ma Robinson for "Come Rain or Come Shine", a cash award from the National Capital Chapter and a cash award from the 3 G's Chapter in memory of Emma Lahr

**BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT MATERIAL** – to Leslie Cox for "Singing in the Rain" Challenge Class, a cash award from the Peninsula Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans and a cash award from Beryl Wood

**BEST ARRANGEMENT OF GROWING GESNERIADS** – to Paul Kroll for "Some Rain Must Fall", a cash award from Judith Fox remembering the Buells and a cash award from Suzie Larouche

**BEST PHOTOGRAPHY** – to Dale Martens for her black and white print of a *Sinningia* calyx, an endowed cash award from the Crisafulli family in memory of Jessie and Anthony Crisafulli

**BEST CRAFT** – to Deb Weinman for her beaded necklace of *Columnnea* 'Early Bird', a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in honor of Walter Dean, her Dad, a lover of nature

**BEST EDUCATIONAL** – to Marilyn Allen for her *Titanotrichum oldhamii* exhibit, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Stanley Schwartz and a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Daphne Yaremko who is a truly dedicated grower and judge

**BEST SCENTED** – to Karyn Cichocki for *Streptocarpus saundersii*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Jim Fryer

**BEST STREPTOCARPUS** – to Arleen Dewell for *Streptocarpus* 'Olwen', a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Irwin Rosenblum and a cash award from Judith Fox in memory of Evelyn Clawson

**BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE** – to Glenn Barnes for his *Columnnea* collection, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein with thanks to the Mt. Hood Chapter for hosting this year's convention

**BEST NEW WORLD EPIPHYTIC SPECIES** – to Bill Price for *Alsobia* species 'Chiapas', a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of the Gesneriad Project volunteers at Selby Gardens

BEST OLD WORLD SPECIES – to Robert Clark for *Petrocosmea forrestii*, a cash award from Susan Grose in honor of the Mt. Hood Chapter for hosting the AGGS Convention

BEST MICRO MINIATURE SINNINGIA – to Dale Martens for *Sinningia* 'Razzmatazz', a cash award from the Heart of America Chapter in memory of Gayle Gill, life member of AGGS and founding member of the Heart of America Chapter

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY A NOVICE – to Darian Joshlin for *Phinaea albolineata*, a cash award from the Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society and a cash award from Sylvia Taub

BEST NEW SPECIES – to Karyn Cichocki for *Streptocarpus saundersii*, a cash award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in honor of Jonathan Ertelt, outgoing Chapter President

BEST NEW WORLD SPECIES – to Bill Price for *Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo', a cash award from Helen Bortvedt in memory of Nellie Sleeth

BEST CHIRITA – to Peter Shalit for *Chirita* 'Piccolo', a cash award from Ingrid Lindskog

BEST GESNERIAD EXHIBITING FRUIT – to Bill Price for *Sinningia leopoldii*, an endowed award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Maryjane Evans



## Division I - HORTICULTURE - Class Awards

### SECTION A – New World Gesneriads in Flower - Tuberous

Class 1 – *Sinningia speciosa* 'Cabo Frio' – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Ron Myhr for his splendid website

Class 2 – *Sinningia araneosa* – to Marilyn Allen, a cash award from Doris Carson and a cash award from the Vancouver AV and Gesneriad Society

Class 3A – *Sinningia guttata* – to Peter Shalit, a cash award from Paul Susi in honor of the convention host chapter and a cash award from Lee Stradley in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein

Class 3B – *Sinningia calcaria* – to Marilyn Allen, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society and a cash award from the Gateway West Gesneriad Chapter

Class 3C – *Sinningia iarae* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of all AGGS Chapters and Affiliates and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

Class 4 – *Sinningia* 'Amizade' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Bonita Hutcheson in memory of Isla Montgomery and a cash award from the Pittsburgh AV & Gesneriad Society

Class 5 – *Sinningia* 'Tomorrow' × *Sinningia calcaria* – to Peter Shalit, a cash award from Suzie Larouche

Class 6 – *Sinningia* 'Razzmatazz' – to Dale Martens, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Marty and Zelda Mines and a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Susan Semos Schlieder

Class 7 – *Vanhouttea lanata* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in honor of Helen Freidberg

### SECTION B – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 8 – *Achimenes* 'Glory' – to Bill Price, a cash award from Carol Schreck and a cash award from Suzie Larouche

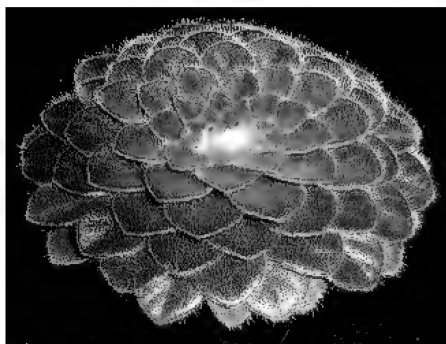
Class 10A – *Kohleria hirsuta* (?) – to Bill Price, a cash award from Dr. Laurence Skog in honor of Marge Schmiel at her first AGGS Convention, for her help and encouragement

Some of the entries at the 2005 Flower Show given Special Awards



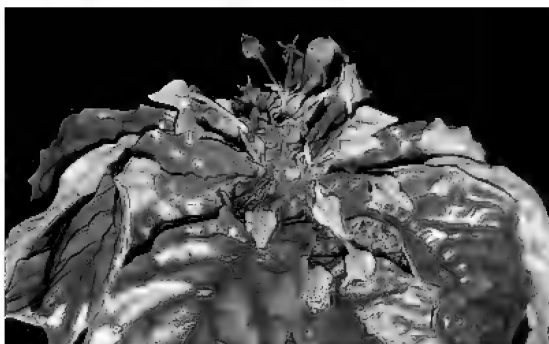
*Sinningia* 'Peridots Darth Vader'  
exhibited by Arleen Dewell  
awarded Runner-Up to  
Best in Show and  
Best New World Tuberous  
Gesneriad in Flower

*Streptocarpus saundersii*  
exhibited by Karyn Cichocki  
awarded Best Scented  
Gesneriad and  
Best New Species

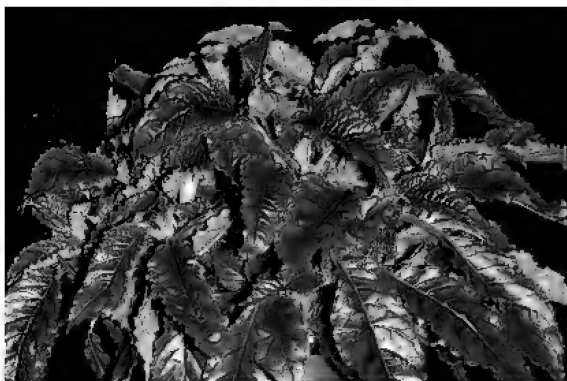


*Petrocosmea forrestii* exhibited  
by Bob Clark awarded Best  
Grown for Ornamental Value  
and Best Old World Species

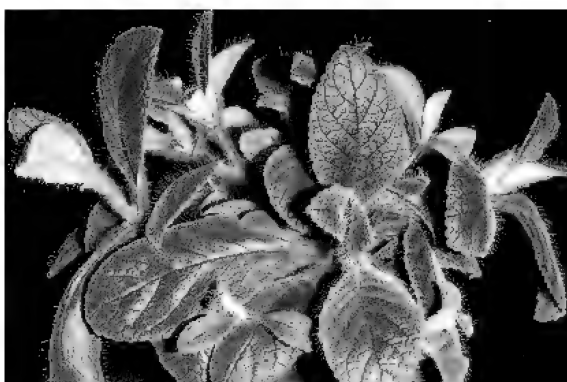
*Napeanthus costaricensis*  
exhibited by Paul Kroll  
awarded Best Lesser-  
Known Gesneriad



Some blue-ribbon entries by first-time convention exhibitors:



*Nautilocalyx forgetii*  
exhibited by Glenn Barnes  
(Florida)



*Eucodonia*  
'Woolly Morrión'  
exhibited by  
Tanya Shevtsova  
(BC, Canada)



*Chirita gemella* exhibited by  
Phaedra Culliton (Oregon)



*Phinaea albolineata* exhibited  
by Dariane Joshlin (Arizona)

Class 10B – *Kohleria* 'Snakeskin' – to Peter Shalit, a cash award from the Atlanta Interest Group and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

Class 13 – *Diastema comiferum* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Wallace Wells and a cash award from Lauray of Salisbury

### **SECTION C - New World Gesneriads in Flower - Fibrous-Rooted**

Class 15 – *Pentadenia* 'Ewann' – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Miriam Goldberg and a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez

Class 16 – *Alsobia* species 'Chiapas' – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Phyllis Rosenbluth and a cash award from Lee Stradley

Class 17 – *Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo' – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in honor of Quentin Schlieder and a cash award from Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York

Class 18 – *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana' – to Becky Fontes, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Monte Watler and a cash award from the Puget Sound Chapter

Class 19 – *Moussonia elegans* – to Marilyn Allen, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Paul Kroll and a cash award from the Gateway West Gesneriad Society

### **SECTION D – Old World Gesneriads in Flower**

Class 21 – *Chirita tamiana* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Lee Stradley in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein and a cash award from Jo Anne Martinez

Class 22 – *Chirita* 'Piccolo' – to Peter Shalit, a cash award from the 3 G's Chapter in memory of Emma Lahr and a cash award from Carolyn Conlin-Lane

Class 23 – *Petrocosmea flaccida* – to Dr. Ralph Robinson, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Jo Hawley

Class 24 – *Saintpaulia diplotricha* 'Parker' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Alan LaVergne and Jon Dixon in memory of Bartley Schwarz and a cash award from Dolly Crowder

Class 25 – *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara Everspecial' – to Robert Clark, a cash award from Lynne Wilson and a cash award from Lee Stradley in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein

Class 26 – *Saintpaulia* 'Optimara Everjoy' – to Robert Clark, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Bill Price and a cash award from M.J. Tyler in memory of Dave Tyler

Class 27 – *Saintpaulia* 'Little Luvin' – to Doris Brownlie, a cash award from the Atlanta Interest Group and a cash award from Lynne Wilson

Class 28 – *Saintpaulia* 'Sundown Trail' – to Bill Price, a cash award from Linda Golubski and a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Arleen Dewell

Class 31 – *Streptocarpus* 'Olwen' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from the Mt. Hood Gesneriad Society and a cash award from the Caribbean Basin AV and Gesneriad Society

Class 32 – *Lysionotus serratus* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Chapter and a cash award from Dolly Crowder

### **SECTION E – Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers**

Class 33 – *Chirita gemella* – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from John Boggan in honor of Frances Batcheller

Class 35 – *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley' – to Leonard Re, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Frances Batcheller and a cash award from Carol Schreck

Class 36 – *Petrocosmea forrestii* – to Robert Clark, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of exhibitors at the Portland show

Class 38 – *Nautilocalyx forgetii* – to Glenn Barnes, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Ben Paternoster for his leadership abilities in the judging process

Class 39 – *Eucodonia* 'Woolly Morrión' – to Tanya Shevtsova, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in honor of Frances Batcheller

### **SECTION F – New Gesneriads**

Class 40 – *Streptocarpus saundersii* – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Suzie Larouche

Class 41 – *Napeanthus jelskii* – to Wallace Wells, a cash award from the Atlanta Interest Group and a cash award from Suzie Larouche

Class 42 – *Sinningia* 'Peridots Darth Vader' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Paul Kroll for his willingness and patience

Class 43 – *Chirita* 'Souvenir' to Peter Shalit, a cash award from John Boggan in honor of Frances Batcheller

## **SECTION G – Lesser- Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows**

Class 44 – *Kohleria allenii* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Paul Susi in honor of the convention host chapter

Class 45 – *Napeanthus costaricensis* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Anne Crowley

## **SECTION H – Collections of Gesneriads**

Class 46 – *Chirita* collection – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Lavia Berland

## **SECTION J – Gesneriads Grown by a Novice**

Class 49 – *Chirita gemella* – to Phaedra Culliton, a cash award from the Vestal AV and Gesneriad Society

Class 50 – *Phinaea albolineata* – to Dariane Joshlin, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of judges, clerks and all Flower Show Committee workers

## **SECTION K – Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Material**

Class 52 – "Come Rain or Come Shine" – to Olive Ma Robinson, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Ben Paternoster and a cash award from the Vancouver AV and Gesneriad Society

Class 54 – "After the Rain" – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Jessie and Tony Crisafulli and a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Carolyn Ripps

## **SECTION L – Arrangement of Fresh Cut Gesneriad Material**

Class 55 – "Singing in the Rain" Challenge Class – to Leslie Cox, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Monte Watler and a cash award from Lee Stradley in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein

Class 56 – "September in the Rain" – to Olive Ma Robinson, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Maryjane Evans and a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

Class 58 – "No More Rain" – to Robert Clark, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Frances Batcheller

## **SECTION M - Arrangement of Growing Gesneriad Material**

Class 59 – "Some Rain Must Fall" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Linda Golubski and a cash award from Alan LaVergne & Jon Dixon in memory of Bartley Schwarz

## **SECTION P – Photography**

Class 68A – Color print of *Sinningia* 'Cindy' – to Sandy Officer, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in memory of Nellie Sleeth and a cash award from the Mt Hood Gesneriad Society

Class 68B – Color print of *Sinningia micans* MP892 – to Bill Price, a cash award from Wallace Wells and a cash award from Carolyn Conlin-Lane

Class 69 – Black and white print of a *Sinningia* calyx – to Dale Martens, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Stan Sudol for his tireless and long-suffering efforts at producing their newsletter

## **SECTION Q – Crafts Representing Gesneriads**

Class 70 – Painting of *Streptocarpus* 'Christmas Morn' – to Randy Baron, a cash award from Doris Carson

Class 72 – Beaded necklace of *Columnnea* 'Early Bird' – to Deb Weinman, a cash award from the Pittsburgh AV and Gesneriad Society and a cash award from Gesneriad-Dicts of Western NY

## **SECTION S – Educational**

Class 75 – *Titanotrichum oldhamii* exhibit – to Marilyn Allen, a cash award from Lauray of Salisbury

Class 76 – *Streptocarpus porphyrostachys* exhibit – to Peter Shalit, a cash award from M.J. Tyler in memory of Dave Tyler and a cash award from Vivian Hiltz

Convention B&W photos courtesy of Julie Mavity-Hudson,  
Jeanne Katzenstein, Alan LaVergne, Bob Stewart, Paul Susi



Arrangement "Come Rain or Come Shine" created by Olive Ma Robinson awarded Best Artistic



*Titanotrichum oldhamii* exhibit created by Marilyn Allen awarded Best Educational Exhibit (see article starting on page 34)



B&W Photo of Sinningia Calyx exhibited by Dale Martens awarded Best in the Arts and Best in Photography



Beaded Necklace of *Columnea* 'Early Bird' created by Deb Weinman awarded Best Craft



Comments from Dale Martens on her picture: "After pollinating *Sinningia* 'Claire Roberts', the flower dropped the next morning, leaving behind a lovely looking calyx. I wanted to make a high contrast, black and white photo that focused on the shape. Therefore, I used two sources of light for shadows and brightness – natural window light as well as a small desk lamp – to give the calyx a three-dimensional feeling."

Comments from Deb Weinman on her necklace: "This necklace was made entirely with seed beads. The beads were woven to create the main necklace, stems, leaves, and flowers. It took hundreds of hours to design and create this stylized representation of my favorite *Columnnea*."



Special thanks to Julie Mavity-Hudson and the Flower Show Photography Committee: Dale Martens, Michael Riley, Bob Stewart, Paul Susi (with assistance from Randy Baron, Karyn Cichocki, Dee Stewart)

## Coming Events

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**October 15-16 — Illinois —** The Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society show and sale at Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Road, Des Plaines. Saturday and Sunday 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. Contact Susan Bradford (847-740-7801) <asusan.bradford@abbott.com>.

**October 22-23 — California —** Delta Gesneriad and AVS dual judged show and sale at the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd. (just off I-80 at E Street), Sacramento. Saturday 2:00 – 5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am –

4:00 pm. Free admission and parking. Contact Lynn Lombard <lynn\_lombard@worldnet.att.net> or 530-637-9000.

**October 22-23 — Tennessee —** Tennessee Gesneriad Society annual show and sale at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art, 1200 Forrest Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37083, Saturday 9:30 am – 4:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 4:30 pm. Lectures on gesneriads and culture at 2:00 pm both days. Contact Timothy Tuttle <plantman87@hotmail.com>.

# Awards of Appreciation

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Molly Schneider <molly608sch@comcast.net>  
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Since 1977 when the awards were started, 77 Awards of Appreciation have been presented. Criteria for selection of recipients include: importance of service, chairing of projects, diligent behind-the-scenes work, faithful contributions of gesneriad articles in publications, and other accomplishments of merit. Our recipients this year easily meet these requirements of important service to AGGS and the world of gesneriads.



Helen Bortvedt



Helen Freidberg



Susan Grose

**Helen M. Bortvedt** of Sequim, Washington, has served as the AGGS Treasurer and Insurance Chair for ten years. Helen's work in life began during the 2nd World War when, at the age of 13, she sold handkerchiefs in a department store (with appropriate work permit). She is a self-taught student in the realms of insurance and banking. While other young women read romance novels, Helen read and studied insurance contracts! She is a retired insurance agent in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, a retired broker in Washington and a retired Assistant Vice President for Key Bank where she held responsibilities in many departments.

Helen began her task as AGGS Treasurer in 1995 and has been reorganizing and computerizing the accounting procedures of the Society since then. Her management of the balances between and within the variety of AGGS funds has added great clarity to the operation and stability of this Society. As a continuing member of AGGS, the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society, the Gesneriasts of Sweden, and the British Streptocarpus Society, she proposes to continue her passion and growing of gesneriads. As a wife, mother of three children and grandmother of six grandchildren, she proposes to devote more quality time to them. We greatly appreciate her dedication to our mutual interests.

**Helen D. Freidberg** of Weston, Massachusetts has been a member of AGGS since 1978. From the 1990's to the present, Helen has held many positions on our AGGS Board including Director, Second Vice President, Parliamentarian and Bylaws Chair. In addition, she has served as AGGS Convention Chair, a position she has worked diligently on since her appointment in 1997. She is also an AGGS judge and a member and past-president of the New England Chapter.

Helen has a BA in Zoology from Wellesley. Her interests turned to horticulture, and besides AGGS, she is involved in many Garden Clubs. She has served as President of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, on the board of the National Garden Club, on committees for the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, as Chair of the New England Flower Show, and has also been involved with the New England Wildflower Society and the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture. Helen and her husband Steve have 2 sons and 3 grandchildren who are very important in their lives. Their interests also include travel.

**Susan Ann Grose** of Overland Park, Kansas, started her interest in gesneriads back in high school with a biology project on vegetative plant propagation that included stem cuttings, grafting and, of course, rooting an African violet leaf. The miracle of propagation has been one of the many enjoyable aspects about growing gesneriads for her. She had a plant stand in her dorm room all four years of college. When she attended the Massachusetts Horticulture Society Spring Flower Show in Boston in 1967, she was awestruck by the exhibit of the New England Chapter of AGGS and the commercial displays of Mike Kartuz and the Buells. She soon joined AGGS and the New England Chapter and has been growing as many gesneriads as possible ever since.

For 37 years, Susan has been involved with many AGGS groups including the Heart of America Chapter and the New England Chapter (which made her an honorary life member when she moved to Kansas), the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association, the British Streptocarpus Society and Gesneriasts of Sweden. She is also active with several other plant groups in Kansas City, always promoting gesneriads. Susan is the immediate past president of AGGS, currently serves as the Standing Rules Chair, and has previously served as Corresponding Secretary and First Vice President. She is an AGGS Master Judge, has contributed articles to *THE GLOXINIAN* and "Appraisal", and has also been involved in the two New England Convention Flower Shows and the 50th Anniversary Convention in Kansas City.

Susan works for the Kansas City VA Medical Center Research Service as a Health Science Specialist. She has a BS degree in Physiology from Stanford University, as well as completing a year of Graduate School at Harvard. Other interests include her vegetable and perennial gardens, bird and wildlife watching, and camping at remote sites in National forests and parks with her husband and two sons. Susan's goals include informing as many people as possible about gesneriads and what a fun, interesting, and rewarding group of plants they are to grow, encouraging more people to join our Society, sharing plants with others, and contributing to the Seed Fund.

## Past Recipients of Awards of Appreciation

1977 – Paul Arnold Charlotte Rowe	1986 – Margaret Belanger Jimmy Dates Isla Montgomery	1995 – Mary Bozoian Ben Paternoster Monte Watler
1978 – Frances Batcheller Carol Saylor	1987 – Joseph Batcheller Ted Bona Ruth Webster	1996 – Celine Chase Betty Tapping Beth Weissman
1979 – Florence Messick Mel Sater Martin Tanner René White	1988 – Maryann Delaune Dr. Hans Wiehler Felicia McCann	1997 – Maryjane Evans Ron Myhr Darrell Trout
1980 – Albert Buell Erica Clayberg Emma Lahr Ruth & Lyndon Lyon	1989 – Judy Becker Anthony Crisafulli Jessie Crisafulli	1998 – David Turley Dave Tyler M.J. Tyler
1981 – Alice Courage Helen Kavanaugh Henry Peterson Laura Progebin	1990 – Chris Kunhardt Michael A. Riley Nellie Sleeth Ellen Todd	1999 – Dr. Miriam Denham Bonita Hutcheson Elizabeth Varley
1982 – Michael Kartuz	1991 – Earl Deroche Molly Schneider Alan Wojcik	2000 – Marlene Beam Ingrid Lindskog
1983 – Dr. Robert E. Lee Dr. Margaret H. Stone	1992 – Diantha Buell Anne Crowley	2001 – Jon Dixon Elvin McDonald
1984 – S. Cleopatra Kohm David R. Masterson Martin Mines	1993 – Stanley Schwartz Margaret Waugespack	2002 – Virginie F. Elbert Mauro Peixoto Leong Tuck Lock
1985 – C. A. Cruikshank Lee Linett Dr. Laurence E. Skog	1994 – Jeanne Katzenstein	2003 – Bill Burt Peter Shalit
		2004 – Doris Carson Bob & Carol Connelly Mario Portilla Andrade

## Special Contributions

Fay Wagman, Corresponding Secretary <fayw@aol.com>  
52 Harper Drive, Pittsford, NY 14534 USA

### FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND — \$225

Robin Kwocza, in memory of Jack Zippin  
Keith Hussen  
Mollie Schneider in lieu of Tennessee Chapter membership fees  
Michael Riley, in memory of Nellie Sleeth and Isla Montgomery  
Raymond Milewki, in memory of Maryjane Evans  
Eleanor Mattaliano

### ELVIN MCDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND — \$220

Mildred Stensler  
Nancy Robitaille, in memory of Francis Martindale  
Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society  
Greater New York Chapter  
Raymond Milewski, in memory of Maryjane Evans  
Eleanor Mattaliano  
Nancy Grimstad, in memory of Edwin Grimstad

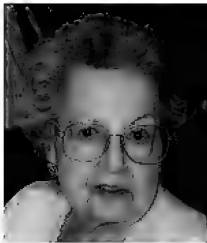
FUND FOR PROGRESS / COLOR PHOTO FUND — \$697

Judith Gurka  
Long Island Chapter  
Dennis Bogle  
Elizabeth Gottschall, in memory of Laura Shannon  
Charlene Marietti  
Marcia Belisle  
Susan Grose, in honor of Dr. Miriam Denham  
Raymond Milewski, in memory of Maryjane Evans  
Greater New York Chapter, in lieu of speakers fees for Jinnie Elbert,  
Allison Lovell, and Michael Riley  
Eleanor Mattaliano  
Catherine Walbridge, in memory of Jessie Crisafulli  
Johnnie Hadley  
Tatsujo Hamada  
Ben Paternoster, in lieu of speakers fee  
Lee Linett, in memory of Isla Montgomery, Alice Courage and  
Nellie Sleeth

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Karyn Cichocki

SPECIAL BEQUESTS FROM THE ESTATE OF NELLIE SLEETH — \$157,938

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund  
Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund



**Nellie D. Sleeth** was a long-time member of AGGS and Treasurer for 17 years. During her years of membership, she made many lasting friendships and considered her AGGS friends as family. One of Nellie's proudest accomplishments as Treasurer was having the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund grow to \$100,000. How appropriate then, as part of her estate, to bequeath \$100,000 for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund to be used by students of Botany or Horticulture to assist them in their academic studies and for scientific plant collecting trips.

Nellie believed in the scientific goals of AGGS and wanted to ensure its continued growth. What a wonderful legacy she has created. She left \$57,937.82 to the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund and also left \$2,117.51 to The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, to continue their work with the Gesneriad Research Foundation herbarium collection. Our local clubs (Puget Sound Gesneriad Society, Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma, Seattle African Violet Society, Pacific Northwest Judges Council), as well as several local youth and music groups, all benefited from her generosity.

Nellie was a mentor and a wonderful friend to many of us. Her death on July 16, 2004, created a large void in all of our lives, but her legacy will remain for many years to come.

*Doreen Hovermale, Personal Representative  
and Executrix for the Estate of Nellie D. Sleeth*

# The Perfect Hybrid

---

Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

My first cutting of a *Sinningia* hybrid simply labeled, "*kautskyi* × *hirsuta*" arrived in May of 1998. It came from Monte Watler, one of the founding members of the Toronto Gesneriad Society. Along with it came a feeling of impending doom! My growing history with both of this hybrid's parents up to that point had been less than stellar. *Sinningia hirsuta* grew for me for awhile, but never prospered or bloomed. It appeared to resent my warm growing conditions. I had better luck with *Sinningia kautskyi* but despaired over its rather sad-looking growth habit and spotty flowering. Quite by accident, I discovered that *Sinningia kautskyi* much preferred the warmer, humid environment inside a covered container. Very much the temperamental, hot-house flower, this one! Much to my relief, it soon became evident that my little hybrid cutting seemed to be thriving in my conditions. A few months later while repotting, I was delighted to find a small tuber. Having a tuber meant that I could grow this lovely gem indefinitely... a constant reminder with each growth cycle of my dear friend Monte. I waited anxiously for about two or three months for that tuber to sprout, and as luck would have it, it did! I soon joined the "*Sinningia kautskyi* × *hirsuta* Fan Club" and heartily agreed that this pretty little plant deserved to be known by its very own name.

Soon thereafter, I heard the story of how this hybrid came into being. Two growers, one in the United States and the other in Brazil, independently of one another made interspecific crosses with *Sinningia hirsuta* and *Sinningia kautskyi*. Dave Zaitlin, then living in Wisconsin, grew his species parents from seed he had obtained from the AGGS Seed Fund. He used both species as seed and pollen parents and made his crosses in the early 1990's. At approximately the same time, or perhaps a year or two earlier, Mauro Peixoto in São Paulo crossed the same two *Sinningia* species. Both gentlemen raised F1 hybrids that were virtually identical in appearance, regardless of which species provided pollen or served as the seed parent. Then they did what all good hybridizers do... they shared their new hybrid cross with other growers to determine how the plants would behave in different environments under varied growing conditions. As all the rave reviews began to pour in, Mauro and Dave realized that they both had made the same cross on opposite sides of the world at virtually the same time. Jointly they decided to name their new hybrid, *Sinningia* 'Amizade'. In Portuguese, the word "amizade" means friendship – a name truly symbolic of the spirit of sharing and caring that all gesneriad enthusiasts the world over impart.

*Sinningia* 'Amizade' grows very happily under four tubes in my warm environment, wicked, with average humidity (50-55%). Because I wick about 90% of my collection, I use a very porous potting mixture. It consists of 1/3 commercially packaged seedling mix (very finely milled long-fibre sphagnum peat moss with small amounts of fine vermiculite and perlite added), 1/3 medium-grade vermiculite, and 1/3 medium-grade perlite. When I repot, I add slow-release fertilizer pellets, either 14-14-14 or 19-6-12, to the potting mixture in each individual pot. I follow the directions on quantity of fertilizer per pot size recommended by the manufacturer. I don't as a rule add more water-soluble fertilizer to my wicking reservoirs, but I have on occa-

sion done so with no apparent ill effects. *Sinningia* 'Amizade' is very thirsty when actively growing and flowering. It will regularly drink the contents of an 8-ounce reservoir dry every day.

The dormant tuber of the plant awarded at Convention was placed, in late February of 2005, in the wicked 5" bulb pan in which it was shown. I kept the potting mixture on the dry side and didn't activate the wicks until vigorous growth from the tuber was well underway. That occurred with this plant in mid to late April. *Sinningia* 'Amizade' breaks dormancy with many little shoots all coming up at the same time. I have often been asked how many tubers I put in one pot, likely because of this freely branching habit. I grow *S.* 'Amizade' with only one tuber per pot, and the only thing I do to manipulate its shape is some very early pruning out of the smaller, weaker shoots. This helps to create a form that is more pleasing to the eye rather than that crowded look you get when too many shoots fight for space in the pot. By early June the plant's basic form had been achieved, and the first flowers began to open by mid-month. Left to its own devices, the same plant would bloom steadily for the next five to six months!

*Sinningia* 'Amizade' easily attains one of the goals that every hybridizer dreams about. It combines all the positive, desirable qualities of both parents and, in so doing, eclipses each of them with respect to floriferousness, ease of culture, and propagation. Kudos to Dave and to Mauro for your perspicacity in creating for us The Perfect Hybrid!



Arleen Dewell with her  
Best in Show plant of  
*Sinningia* 'Amizade'



*Gesneriads • Begonias • Rare Flowering Plants & Vines*

**KARTUZ GREENHOUSES**

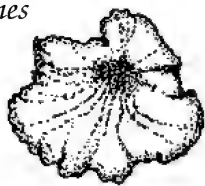
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VISTA, CA 92083-6531

760-941-3613

<http://www.kartuz.com>

Ask for catalog



# Growing Show Plants

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Bill Price <billprice@telus.net >  
West Vancouver, BC, Canada

In general, all my gesneriads are grown in a very open mix of 1/3 each by volume of reconstituted New Zealand sphagnum moss, perlite, and vermiculite. This results in a very light, open mix which all these plants love. I fertilize everything weekly with "the standard" 1/4 strength of a variety of fertilizers. A second weekly watering is with plain tap water which, fortunately for us here, is essentially rain water. My show plants are grown either in a bright south-facing window or under fluorescent lights (2 or 4 tubes on for 12 to 14 hours per day). I have several small fans that run continuously in the plant rooms to create good air circulation. Temperature ranges are from 16-21°C in the winter and 18-26°C in the summer months. Humidity levels year-round are usually 50-70%. (I also have a greenhouse but use it more for larger-growing species of *Drymonias*, *Sinningias*, etc., that don't end up in shows.) Here are some specific comments about a few of the plants I exhibited at this year's convention flower show:

***Kohleria allenii*** — It took this plant about three years and several growth cycles to mature from a seedling to blooming size. It was slow to produce rhizomes. As with many *Kohlerias*, this one also preferred high light. I grew it under 4 tubes until it got too tall and then moved it to a south-facing window. It required lots of water! This was the second time it produced its unusual terminal raceme of open-faced flowers. The plant and the flowers have a distinct odor, and the foliage is very sticky which makes it a death trap for small insects.

***Kohleria hirsuta* (?)** (exhibited as *K. tubiflora*) — The cultural conditions were the same as for *K. allenii*, but this species grew from rhizomes acquired a year ago. It also readily forms rhizomes. The flowers are produced in the leaf axils as the plant continues to grow. (Note: the identification of this beautiful plant is still in question.)

***Vanhouttea lanata*** — This plant was also grown in high light conditions initially under 4 tubes and later in the south-facing window. It is a tall-growing shrub related to *Sinningia*. Twice yearly in the spring and fall, I prune each long branch back to two nodes to induce more branching and keep the plant more compact. The fuzzy white buds develop slowly over several months and finally open to reveal the beautiful spotted flowers. Even without flowers, the buds are very attractive.

***Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo'** — I grew this plant under both 2 and 4 tubes and found it had more compact growth and more flowers under the higher light conditions. It is a rangy grower and needs to be regularly pruned to encourage multiple basal branching. As with other *Gesnerias*, it is absolutely intolerant of any drying out. It also prefers a soil mix with a good deal of added lime.

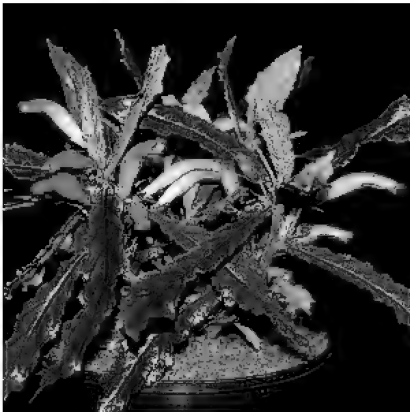




*Kohleria allenii*



*Vanhouttea lanata*



*Gesneria acaulis* 'Flamingo'



*Kohleria hirsuta* (?)  
(exhibited as *K. tubiflora*)

# *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

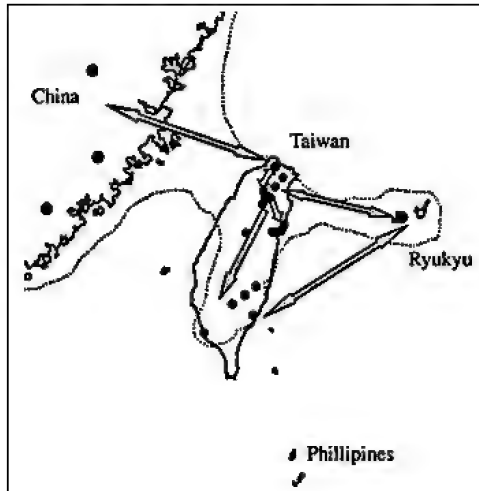
Marilyn Allen <dmarilynallen@shaw.ca >  
Port Moody, BC, Canada

While *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (a member of the family Gesneriaceae) has been in cultivation for many years, it has only recently acquired significant popularity amongst gesneriophiles. It makes a stunning botanical specimen with striking deep yellow corollas and red/brown lobes. While growers have learned the cultural needs to achieve good growth and flowering, there have been questions concerning the occurrence of: flowers alone; flowers/ bulbils occurring together; and bulbil versus seed production. These phenomena are important since *Titanotrichum oldhamii* is classified as a rare and endangered species for China and Japan. This report, based on my educational exhibit at convention this year, will attempt to give some information about these issues from recent botanical research.

## Background

*Titanotrichum oldhamii* was first discovered in 1864 by Richard Oldham in Taiwan (then Formosa) while collecting for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The name, "*Titanotrichum*" refers to the hairs being impregnated with lime (titanos – lime; thrix – the hairs). It was cultivated in Europe as an ornamental.

The habitat of *Titanotrichum* is temperate to subtropical monsoon rain-forest in shade along creeks but especially on wet limestone cliffs where roots are exposed to dripping water. Distribution is scattered: in Taiwan, adjacent areas of China and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan, with North-central Taiwan the center of genetic diversity. Populations are often small (numbering in size from 10 to 200) and isolated from each other.



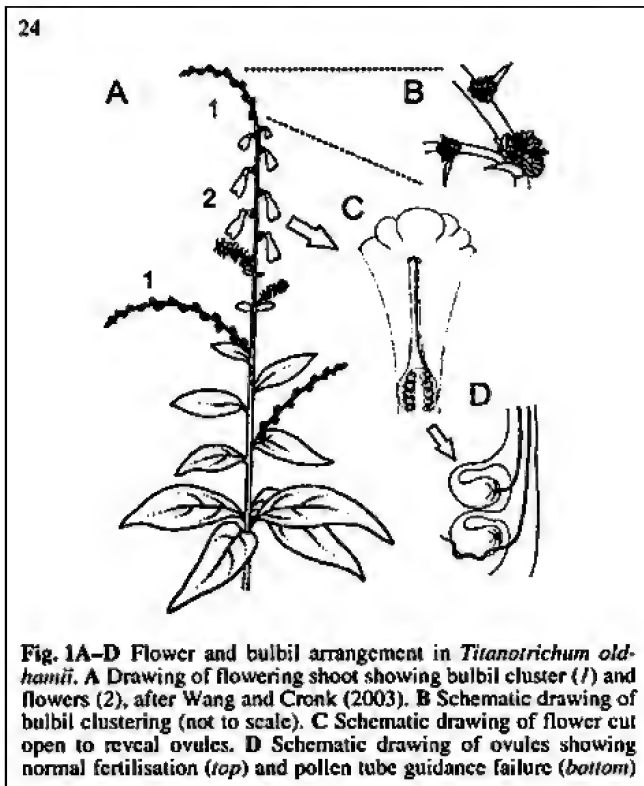
Map of East Asia showing the distribution of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (circles); arrows show hypothesized direction of migration at glacial maximum; dashed lines indicate the hypothetical coast line during the Pleistocene glacial maximum

*Titanotrichum oldhamii* is rhizomatous with opposite, white fleshy scales. Leaves are opposite, but variable in size, with one leaf of the pair larger than the other. The inflorescence of *T. oldhamii* is a true raceme always producing bulbils terminally at the end of the flowering season. Plant size can range from one-year-old plants with a few flowers, to large one-meter plants with numerous flowers. Seeds are linear (with linear appendages at both ends) and are small, but numerous, in pollinated capsules.

### Meristem behaviour

Gesneriaceae species are known for variation in meristem (growing tip of roots or stems) behavior affecting vegetative parts; *Titanotrichum* is unusual in having meristem variation affecting reproductive parts.

Several shoots can arise from each rhizome. When these stems reach the reproductive phase, a single "floral" meristem occurs at each node with a single bract. In *T. oldhamii*, the developmental fate of these meristems is unstable and changes during the season: to flower formation; to bulbil formation and to bract development. Flowers may appear alone, or along with bracts; or flowers and bulbils together on a raceme. These mixed conditions indicate that the meristem is not committed to a single pathway from the beginning.



Illustrations and photographs courtesy of C.N. Wang



Botanical drawing of  
*Titanotrichum oldhamii* Solereder  
(after Flora of Taiwan - Li & Kao 1998)



*Titanotrichum oldhamii* growing in situ in shade  
along creeks and on limestone cliffs



Normal inflorescence with bulbils beginning to initiate at the tip



Bulbil inflorescence with branching

### **Factors influencing meristem behaviour: daylength; hormone development; temperature; water stress**

In nature, flowering occurs from June to the end of September. Around the end of August, day length has declined from 16 hours to <10 hours. Temperatures also fall from 30°C to 22°C (seldom below 20°C). As autumn progresses, so does the development of bulbils and bracts in the axils and at the top of the inflorescence.

Bulbil formation may be regulated by day length and hormone production. Massive numbers of bulbils occur when day length declines (late in the flowering season). They occur terminally and in the axils. Mixed inflorescences of flowers and bulbils can be achieved from either long day / low temperature; or short day / high temperature combinations. Flowers predominate in inflorescences when day length is long and temperatures are consistently moderate (16 hours and 23°C).

Bract formation appears to be an intermediary state between flower and bulbil production and does not lead to the production of any reproductive units.

### **Seed Production**

In the wild, seed production is rare. Flowers remain open three to five days (longer in densely shaded locations); anthers release pollen in the first two days then gradually are pulled back by the dehydrating filaments. Meanwhile, the style continues to mature and the stigma starts to curve downwards. With the stigma fully receptive after the first three days, selfing within the same flower is unlikely to produce seeds. This implies that polli-

nators are necessary for sexual reproduction. The best opportunity for seed production is achieved from inter population crosses both in the wild and in controlled experiments.

The presence of bulbils may still allow pollinated flowers at the lower end of an existing inflorescence to form viable seeds, but the numbers will be lower. Further pollinating efforts of flowers in the presence of bulbil production is unlikely to result in seed formation. Mature capsules are never found close to bulbils.

Water stress affects the development of seeds and fruit set causing the shriveling of the receptive stigmatic surface when suboptimal moisture exists.

### The Pollinators

Populations in the areas where *T. oldhamii* grows are visited at midday by butterflies, bumblebees and smaller bees – none of which spend much time visiting *Titanotrichum*, preferring to visit other vegetation nearby. The bumblebee (*Xylocarpa appendiculata*) is too large to enter the corolla and visits as a thief, biting into the flower from the outside to steal nectar without providing pollination services. The smaller bee (*Ceratina flavipes*) is considered the true pollinator but mostly visits only the flowers on the same raceme. The distance between populations and their habitat makes visitation by pollinators and cross-pollination less likely in nature. This lack of cross-pollination between different populations over time will affect the survival of this species as variety in genetic material becomes unavailable and they suffer from inbreeding.



True pollinators (*Ceratina flavipes*) on bottom row with larger bumblebees (*Xylocarpa appendiculata*) above – the smaller bee is able to move about freely inside the corolla to effect pollination

Bulbils, while not an ideal method of reproduction in the long term, become important in the conservation of *Titanotrichum* by asexual reproduction. They are produced in large numbers and they function as seeds with high fertility rates as they separate from the plants and float away in the water to hopefully create new populations.

## References:

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- Wang, C.N., M. Möller & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2004. Altered expression of GFLO, the Gesneriaceae homologue of FLORICAULA/LEAFY, is associated with the transition to bulbil formation in *Titanotrichum oldhamii*. *Dev. Genes Evol* 214:122-127.
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Emerging shoots in late Spring



Close-up of flowers



*Titanotrichum oldhamii* growing outdoors in  
John Boggan's garden in Washington, D.C.



# Growing Gesneriads Outdoors: *Titanotrichum*

---

John Boggan <jkb25@cornell.edu>  
Washington, D.C., USA

*Titanotrichum oldhamii* has frustrated many a grower, but in four years of growing gesneriads outdoors, this species has been my greatest success story. I first tried growing this odd gesneriad about 15 years ago while I was a graduate student at Cornell University. Like many people, I had poor results growing it under lights indoors and found it difficult to bloom and nearly impossible to keep alive for more than one growing season. It did better in the Cornell greenhouses and even bloomed beautifully, but again did not survive more than one growing season. I became re-acquainted with this plant when I finally had a house with a yard and I started perusing garden catalogs and planning my gardens. After seeing *T. oldhamii* advertised in a Plant Delights Nursery catalog as hardy to Zone 7, I decided to put it to the test outdoors along with some other gesneriads. I was skeptical that a plant that had been in continuous cultivation for decades was only now being discovered to be hardy... and even worse, by somebody outside The Gesneriad Society! Much to my astonishment, the plant has proven to be completely hardy, with minimal protection, in my Zone 7 garden. My clump has now survived three winters in a row, and they have been three of the region's coldest winters in over a decade! Many visitors to my garden have remarked on the handsome bright yellow flowers and I have shared divisions with several people.

Coming from Taiwan, adjacent mainland China, and the southernmost Ryukyu islands of Japan, *Titanotrichum* has long been an oddity, and there has even been some question as to whether it belongs in the family at all. It was originally described in 1890 as *Rehmannia oldhamii*; the Chinese genus *Rehmannia* has its own classification issues, having been bounced between the families Gesneriaceae and Scrophulariaceae by various botanists over the years. The consensus finally seemed to be that *Rehmannia* had its home in Scrophulariaceae, but with that family now being broken up into several families by botanists, I'm not entirely certain where *Rehmannia* goes lately! At least three species of *Rehmannia* are in cultivation and are worth growing as "honorary gesneriads".

*Rehmannia oldhamii* was later recognized as belonging to the Gesneriaceae and was transferred in 1909 to *Titanotrichum* as the only member of that genus. Another species described in 1988, *T. parviflorum*, turned out to belong to the genus *Staurogyne* in the family Acanthaceae. It has never been clear what the nearest relatives of *Titanotrichum* might be, or even which subfamily best accommodated it. Although tentatively classified by gesneriad taxonomists in the subfamily Cyrtandroideae with other Old World genera, new research suggests *Titanotrichum* may actually belong in subfamily Gesnerioideae (see accompanying Botanical Review article). One reason the classification of this genus has always been tentative is that the subfamily classification depends in part on seedling development, and until recently nobody had ever seen a seedling of *T. oldhamii*; all the plants in cultivation were apparently a single self-incompatible clone which would not set seed when self-pollinated. All members of subfamily Cyrtandroideae have

seedlings whose cotyledons develop unequally (taken to an extreme in the genus *Streptocarpus*, some species of which produce a single giant cotyledon as their only leaf); as it turns out, those of *T. oldhamii* develop equally, a characteristic of the New World gesneriads. Another odd characteristic that has always seemed out of place in Cyrtandroideae was that *T. oldhamii* produces scaly rhizomes that are very similar to those produced by many New World gesneriads, but were otherwise unknown in any Old World gesneriad. Despite its scaly rhizomes, *Titanotrichum* is not closely related to any of the New World scaly rhizomatous genera, nor does it seem to belong with them in tribe Gloxinieae. Some taxonomists have placed *Titanotrichum* in a tribe of its own, Titanotricheae, and this tribe will probably be maintained in sub-family Gesnerioideae.

Another odd characteristic of *Titanotrichum oldhamii*, and one which occurs in no other gesneriad, is its manner of producing propagules. ("Propagule" can refer to any organ or structure that normally functions to propagate a plant. The aerial propagules of *Titanotrichum* are called "bulbils" by some botanists, although they are more seed-like than bulb-like. Another term might be "gemmae", which are small bud-like structures.) For many growers this is one of the more frustrating characteristics of the plant: in place of flowers, it will often produce long whip-like stems with clusters of thousands of tiny seed-like propagules. Some of the New World genera produce propagules, but in these genera the propagules are tiny scaly rhizomes. The propagules of *Titanotrichum* look like tiny embryos, complete with "cotyledons"; they "germinate" like seeds, and they look exactly like seedlings when they sprout although they are produced asexually. Just why *Titanotrichum* does this is a mystery. These propagules make the plant extremely easy to propagate, but keeping it going and getting it to bloom are another matter entirely!

So just what is the secret to growing *Titanotrichum oldhamii*? Water, water, water. In the wild, *T. oldhamii* grows in shady areas near streams and on wet, dripping cliffs. This probably makes it one of the few gesneriads that will tolerate, and even thrive in, constantly wet soil. The plants in my garden wilt if the soil dries out even slightly, although I have found that in the ground this species is somewhat more tolerant of drying out – recovering and even blooming if it has not wilted too badly – than when grown in pots, probably because it forms a large and deep root system that can seek water even when the surface of the soil dries out. When plants dry out, when days become shorter, or after blooming, the plant will produce propagules instead of flowers. Bear in mind that propagule production is perfectly normal, and not necessarily a sign of poor culture; I have found that virtually all plants will produce propagules before going dormant, the only question being whether they produce propagules after, or instead of, flowers.

Another tricky part of its culture is that plants grown from propagules will often not bloom in their first growing season; instead they usually produce more propagules! This is frustrating for growers, but again, this seems to be a normal part of how this plant grows. Plants need to reach a certain size before blooming, and plants grown from propagules will often not reach that size before the time comes to prepare for dormancy. But at the same time they are producing propagules above ground, they are producing large scaly rhizomes below ground. The plants grown from these rhizomes the following year get a head start and are much more likely to bloom, although if they are allowed to dry out they will again produce propagules instead of

flowers. In my garden, the shoots that come up from overwintered rhizomes are very robust, looking almost like purplish asparagus as they emerge. The dormant rhizomes don't seem to mind wet soil, and in fact I found that rhizomes that are allowed to dry out over the winter will usually die (unlike many of the New World gesneriads, which require dry conditions while dormant to prevent their rhizomes from rotting).

In summary, *Titanotrichum oldhamii* is rather exacting in its cultural requirements but quite easy to grow and bloom once you provide them: rich soil, plenty of root room, bright light, warmth and high humidity, and constant moisture even while dormant. It doesn't seem to be picky about soil as long as it never dries out; my garden soil has a lot of clay which I've gradually amended with compost. Light requirements are bright or dappled shade; direct sun early or late in the day is acceptable as long as the soil stays moist. Mid-day sun tends to wilt and burn the foliage. For winter protection I provide a light mulch of leaves or shredded bark and nothing more; dormant rhizomes have taken temperatures down to 6°F (-14°C) and came back in the spring just as strong. *Titanotrichum* combines well with ferns, hostas, hardy begonias, and other shade-loving perennials, but be sure not to plant it with rapidly spreading or overly aggressive plants. It comes up later than most other perennials so mark it in some way (I just leave last year's stems) and don't plant other things on top of it in the spring! With a little fertilizer and plenty of water the plants will bloom from late summer to early fall. The clumps will increase slowly and can be divided and shared within 2-3 years. *Titanotrichum* can also be propagated from propagules, which should be treated exactly like seeds.

Finally, why is *Titanotrichum* so hardy? Having a natural dormant period with underground rhizomes doubtlessly helps, as does its tolerance of wet soil while dormant, but coming from the warm temperate to subtropical regions of southern China, Taiwan, and the southernmost islands of Japan, there is no obvious reason why this plant should be the least bit cold hardy. As with the Vietnamese species *Raphiocarpus petelotii*, this plant's hardiness must remain a mystery but in both cases may hint at an ancient ancestry that included a distribution in more northerly regions before being pushed south by Ice Age glaciers. This also suggests that more plants from southern China may be harder than we think!

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Louis Harris	Largo, Florida
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Laura Becker	Salisbury, Connecticut
Ewa Bergman	Sweden
Margaret Kotliar	Sun City, Florida

# Botanical Review Committee, Report #30

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Compiled by John Boggan <jkb25@cornell.edu>  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

**W**ang, C.N. & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2003. Meristem fate and bulbil formation in *Titanotrichum* (Gesneriaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 90: 1696-1707. Illustrated.

**Abstract:** "*Titanotrichum oldhamii* (a monotypic genus from Taiwan, Okinawa, and adjacent regions of China) has inflorescences bearing either showy yellow flowers or asexual bulbils. Asexual reproduction by bulbils is important in natural populations, and bulbil production increases in August and September at the end of the flowering season (which runs from June to the end of September). The bulbils are small (~1-2.5 mm long) and numerous. They consist of a small portion of stem (bract-stem) topped by opposite storage bracts that enclose a minute apical meristem. A secondary root develops from the side of the bract-stem. The floral meristem of *T. oldhamii* has three possible fates: (1) bulbil formation, (2) flower formation, or (3) bracteose proliferation. Bracteose proliferation rarely occurs and appears to be a developmental transition between the bulbiliferous and racemose inflorescence forms. It is strongly reminiscent of the *floricaula* and *squamosa* mutants of *Antirrhinum*. In the bulbiliferous form a single floral primordium, which would normally produce one flower, gives rise to ~50-70 bulbils by repeated subdivision of the meristem. This form of bulbil production appears to be unique to *Titanotrichum*. Occasionally a floral meristem divides, but the subdivision forms multiflowered units of up to four flowers rather than bulbils, suggesting that meristem fate is reversible up to the first or second meristem subdivision. In *Titanotrichum*, therefore, primordium fate is apparently not determined at inception but becomes irreversibly determined shortly after the appearance of developmental characteristics of the floral or bulbil pathway."

**Wang, C.N., M. Möller & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2004. Population genetic structure of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Gesneriaceae), a subtropical bulbiliferous plant with mixed sexual and asexual reproduction. *Annals of Botany* 93: 201-209. Illustrated.**

**"Background and aims.** *Titanotrichum oldhamii* is a monotypic genus distributed in Taiwan, adjacent regions of China and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. Its conservation status is vulnerable as most populations are small and widely scattered. *Titanotrichum* has a mixed system of reproduction with vegetative bulbils and seeds. The aim of this study was to understand the population genetic structure of *Titanotrichum* in relation to its specific reproductive behaviour and to determine possible implications for conservation strategies. **Methods.** After an extensive inventory of most wild populations of *Titanotrichum* in East Asia, samples from 25 populations within its major distribution were carried out utilizing RAPD and inter-SSR molecular fingerprinting analysis. **Key results.** The findings support the conclusion that many populations reproduce predominantly asexually but that some genetic variation still exists within populations. However, significant amounts of variation exist between populations, perhaps reflecting population differentiation by drift. This partitioning of genetic diversity indicates that the level of inter-

population gene exchange is extremely low. These findings are consistent with field observations of very limited seed production. The Chinese populations are similar to those of Northern Taiwan, while the Ryukyu populations fall within the range of variation of the north-central Taiwan populations. The Taiwanese populations are relatively variable and differentiation between north, east and south Taiwan is evident. *Conclusions.* The distribution of *Titanotrichum* seems to be consistent with a former land connection between China, Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands at a glacial maximum during the Quaternary, followed by progressive fragmentation of the populations. North-central Taiwan is the centre of genetic diversity, possibly due to the proximity of the former land bridge between the regions, together with the variety of suitable habitats in north Taiwan. The significance of these findings for conservation is discussed."

**Wang, C.N., M. Möller & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2004. Phylogenetic position of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Gesneriaceae) inferred from four different gene regions. *Systematic Botany* 29: 407-418. Illustrated.**

Abstract: "*Titanotrichum oldhamii* has been variously placed in Gesneriaceae or Scrophulariaceae, although most recent taxonomic treatments treat it as a monotypic tribe within Gesneriaceae. In this study, we reconstructed a broad-scale phylogeny containing *Titanotrichum* using gene sequences from four sequence regions (chloroplast *trnL-F* intron and spacer and *atpB-rbcL* spacer, nuclear 26S ribosomal DNA, and the low-copy developmental gene *CYCLOIDEA*, *CYC*). The phylogenies inferred from each individual data set and the combined data are congruent in placing *Titanotrichum* inside Gesneriaceae. The phylogenetic tree based on combined chloroplast and nuclear DNA sequences grouped *Titanotrichum* with subfamilies Gesnerioideae (New World) and Coronantheroideae (South Pacific and Chile). We have isolated *CYC*, from most of the species of Gesneriaceae and Scrophulariaceae represented in this study, and this gene phylogeny suggests the same placement of *Titanotrichum*. *CYC* was found to evolve three times faster than the *trnL-F* intron and spacer, 3.3 times faster than the *atpB-rbcL* spacer, and eight times faster than nuclear 26S rDNA. Although there is considerable phylogenetic information in this fast evolving gene, analysis is problematic because of high levels of homoplasy and paralogy. In addition to a duplication predating a split between New World and Old World taxa (*Gcyc1* vs. *Gcyc2*), there are several subsequent lineage-related duplications (mainly within *Gcyc1*)."

**Wang, C.N., M. Möller & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2004. Aspects of sexual failure in the reproductive processes of a rare bulbiliferous plant, *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Gesneriaceae), in subtropical Asia. *Sexual Plant Reproduction* 17: 23-31. Illustrated.**

Abstract: "*Titanotrichum oldhamii* produces both flowers and asexual bulbils on its inflorescences. However, field observations and herbarium collections indicate that seed set is infrequent and that most reproduction is from vegetative bulbils. We have investigated the failure of sexual reproduction and identified four major causes: (1) in the wild, the seed:ovule ratio for open pollination was only 1.9%, in contrast to 10.1% for artificial cross-pollination, implying poor pollinator services. (2) The overall reproductive success was 5-10 times greater in glasshouse pollination treatments com-

pared to field treatments. This suggests suboptimal environmental conditions for seed set in natural habitats, which may eliminate natural seed set completely. (3) Pollination experiments showed that outcrossed populations set significantly more seed and had higher germination rates than intra-population and self crosses, in both field and glasshouse experiments. *T. oldhamii* thus appears to benefit from wide outcrossing. Pollen transfer between populations, however, seems to be infrequent because of the rarity and scattered distribution of *Titanotrichum* populations. (4) Flowers near the apex of the inflorescence are less likely to set seed, especially late in the season when inflorescences convert to bulbil production. In these late flowers, pollen tubes showed poor guidance as they approach the micropyle of the ovules. Even under optimal glasshouse conditions, the average outcrossing success was only 0.229. Almost one-half of the ovules remained undeveloped and 13.5% of ovules aborted after pollination, indicating a strong shift of resource allocation toward vegetative bulbils and rhizome development. Efficient reproduction from asexual bulbils may thus have released *Titanotrichum* from strong selection for efficient sexual reproduction. However, occasional seed set observed in the wild may be very important for maintaining some genetic diversity in populations, and promoting overall fitness."


**Wang, C.N., M. Möller & Q.C.B. Cronk. 2004. Altered expression of GFLO, the Gesneriaceae homologue of FLORICAULA/LEAFY, is associated with the transition to bulbil formation in *Titanotrichum oldhamii*. *Development Genes and Evolution* 214: 122-127. Illustrated.**

Abstract: "*Titanotrichum oldhamii* inflorescences switch from flower to bulbil production at the end of the flowering season. The structure of the bulbiliferous shoots resembles the abnormal meristematic organization of the *Antirrhinum* mutant, *floricaula*. Gesneriaceae-*FLORICAULA* (*GFLO*) is thus a candidate gene in the regulation of bulbil formation. To investigate this hypothesis, part of the *GFLO* gene (between the second and third exon) was isolated using degenerate primers designed in regions conserved between *Antirrhinum*, *Nicotiana* and *Arabidopsis*, followed by genome walking to obtain the complete gene and flanking sequences. RT-PCR results showed that the *GFLO* homologue is strongly expressed in inflorescence apical meristems and young flowers. However, in meristems that had switched to bulbil formation, *GFLO* transcription was greatly reduced. The down-regulation of *GFLO* in bulbil primordia indicates that this gene is connected to, or part of, the bulbil-flower regulatory pathway. Phylogenetic analysis confirms the orthology of *GFLO* and *FLO*, and indicates that the gene may be useful for phylogenetic reconstruction at the genus or family level."

**Wang, Y.Z., Li Zhen-Yu, Pan Kai-Yu, & Zou Xiu-Hong. 2002. Pattern and significance of seedling development in *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Gesneriaceae). *Acta Botanica Sinica* 44: 903-907. Illustrated.**

Abstract: "The seedling development of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Hemsl.) Solereder has been investigated to provide insight into the evolution and systematic position of *Titanotrichum*. In *T. oldhamii*, the size differentiation of the two cotyledons begins while the hypocotyl grows. However, both of the two cotyledons develop normally and locate at the same level. Finally, the two cotyledons are almost equal in size. The aerial shoot (including stem

and leaves) is produced from the permanent activity of the apical meristem in the plumular bud. Even though the seedling development in *Titanotrichum* basically conforms to the general growth pattern of the seedling in the Cyrtandroideae, it is remarkably different from that of other Cyrtandroideae. Based on the revealed evidence in seedling development in *Titanotrichum* and other comparative data, the authors have evaluated the possible evolutionary pathway of *Titanotrichum* and further discussed the familial placement of this genus."



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## Gesneriad Programs

This year, for the first time, we have the PowerPoint files for two of the lectures delivered at the AGGS Convention available for distribution. The programs are "Playing with Streptocarpus" by Toshijiro Okuto and "Reorganization of the Gloxinieae Tribe Based on Molecular & Morphological Datasets" by Eric Roalson. We do not have the scripts for these programs, just the images presented. They will be available on CD at a cost of \$3.00 US to cover media and mailing expenses.

The following programs are currently available in 35 mm slide format:

- Introduction to Gesneriads (56 slides)
- Long Island NY: Convention 2004 (80 slides)
- Sacramento CA: Convention 2003 (78 slides)
- Morristown NJ: Convention 2002 (80 slides)
- Kansas City MO: Convention 2001 (79 slides)
- Achimenes (59 slides)
- Alpine and Cool-Growing Gesneriads (78 slides)
- Chiritas (60 slides)
- The Companion Genera: *Nematanthus* and *Codonanthe* (77 slides)
- Kohlerias (72 slides)
- Sinningias (80 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Species (75 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Hybrids (79 slides)

These programs are available in PowerPoint Format on CD:

- Kohlerias
- The Companion Genera: *Nematanthus* and *Codonanthe*
- Long Island NY: Convention 2004 Flower Show

Since we have only one copy of the 35 mm slide programs available for circulation, please contact me for information on the dates the program you are interested in is available. As always, I'll be happy to answer questions about any of the programs.

Programs can be reserved by mail to Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Road, Stow MA 01775-1604 or email to [dee.stewart@110.net](mailto:dee.stewart@110.net). Specify the program to be reserved and the date the program is required. Since new programs are very popular, it is helpful if you provide as much lead time as possible, provide alternate dates, or alternate programs that would be acceptable. Please specify the address the program is to be mailed to and a contact phone number. Program rental of \$20.00 US payable to AGGS must be received before the program can be shipped. Your request will be promptly acknowledged and programs will be shipped to arrive at least one week in advance of your reserved date. Programs on 35 mm slides are shipped pre-loaded in a Kodak-compatible carousel. Programs must be returned within 5 days of your reservation date via Priority Mail with delivery confirmation in the U.S. or the equivalent postal category from outside the U.S.

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Bottom:  
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# Auction to Benefit the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund

---

Paul Susi <captaur@optonline.net>  
Millerton, New York, USA

Each auction event has its own excitement and usually its share of surprises, and the auction held at our 49th Annual Convention in Portland was no exception. We have had donations of show plants in previous auctions, but this year in Portland over twenty show plants were donated to the live auction by Bill Price, Marilyn Allen, Glenn Barnes, Arleen Dewell, Karyn Cichocki, and Peter Shalit. For the first time, photography exhibits were also donated to the live auction, this year by Maurice Marietti and Bill Price. Among the donated show plants were Peter Shalit's new hybrid, *Chirita* 'Piccolo', Arleen Dewell's runner-up to Best in Show, *Sinningia* 'Peridots Darth Vader', Bill Price's *Achimenes* 'Glory', and Columneas from Glenn Barnes' awarded collection. The live auction also featured four outstanding collections (plants and cuttings) of *Streptocarpus*, *Sinningias*, *Episcias* and a "mixed group" of gesneriads, all donated by Dale Martens.

The silent auction had its share of special donations also. Jeanne Katzenstein donated three choice botanical prints from the mid-1800s, Kenji Hirose brought a very special cutting of *Conandron ramondiioides* "variegata" from Japan, and Bill Price, not to outdo his contributions to the live auction, donated over 15 collections of various gesneriad cuttings. Paul Kroll donated cuttings of his 2004 Convention winner, *Streptocarpus* 'Iced Artistry' and plants of *Streptocarpus candidus* (variegated mutation), originally received from Toshihiro Okuto. Other highlights of the silent auction included *The Indoor Light Gardening Book*, *African Violets and Their Relatives*, *The Miracle Houseplants*, a gift certificate to Kartuz Greenhouses, and a cutting of a newly named hybrid, *Sinningia* 'Cream Apricot Bouquet', donated by Paul Lee.

Thirty-five members and friends donated 115 items for both the silent and the live auctions. More than 40 bidders donated over \$5900 to the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund.

The individual donors were: Marilyn Allen, Glenn Barnes, Carol Ann Bonner, Helen Bortvedt, Allison Brigham, Carol Callaghan, Karyn Cichocki, Bob Clark, Ann Marie Clyatt, Leslie Cox, Arleen Dewell, Kenji Hirose, Doreen Hovermale, Michael Kartuz, Jeanne Katzenstein, Paul Kroll, Paul Lee, Maurice Marietti, Dale Martens, Michael Medved, Shirley Nieminen, Bill Price, Vivian Scheans, Molly Schneider, Peter Shalit, Paul Susi, Tim Tuttle, M. J. Tyler, Wallace Wells. Also, donations were received from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society.

No auction would be complete without the bidders. Among those members whose bids contributed to the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (please excuse any inadvertent omissions) were: Marilyn Allen, Susan Allison, Glenn Barnes, Bob Behl, Carol Ann Bonner, Helen Bortvedt, Doris Brownlie, Tom Bruning, Nola Carr, Doris Carson, Karyn Cichocki, Virginia Clark, Francisco Correa, Doreen Dragon, Becky Fontes, Elizabeth Glazebroke, Rosalind Gold, Austin Grevious, Susan Grose, David Harley, Doreen Hovermale, Anne Jantzen, Dariane Joshlin, Jeanne Katzenstein,

Murna Kosowan, Paul Kroll, Suzie Larouche, Allison Lovell, Stephen Maciejewski, Dale Martens, Jo Anne Martinez, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Brigitte McKnight, Michael Medved, Leslie Milde, Bud Morrison, Bobby Nicholson, Shirley Nieminen, Sandy Officer, Toshijiro Okuto, Ben Paternoster, Bill Price, Leonard Re, Michael Riley, Carolyn Ripps, Eric Roalson, Ralph Robinson, Molly Schneider, Peter Shalit, Tanya Shevtsova, Paul Susi, Tim Tuttle, Carol Watterson, and Wallace Wells.

Thanks to the Development Committee for their invaluable input and hard work: Doris Brownlie, Tom Bruning, Doris Carson, Jeanne Katzenstein, Suzie Larouche, Michael Riley, Molly Schnieder, Larry Skog and Lee Stradley. Thanks to those members who helped receive the donations, distribute the winnings and enabled the live auction to move so smoothly: Randy Baron, Bob Clark, Francisco Correa and Bill Price, our auctioneer extraordinaire. And thanks to Helen Bortvedt, Becky Fontes, and M.J. Tyler who collected everyone's generous contributions so efficiently.

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Right: First-time conventioners Marge Schmiel and John R. Clark, with 25-year convention veteran Jeanne Katzenstein, 2005 Convention Chair protom



Below: Conventioners relaxing on the Saturday cruise



# Benefits of Membership

---

Bob Clark <membership@aggs.org>  
Seattle, Washington, USA

A person recently wrote me asking, "For my annual dues of \$25, what do I get? What benefits are there of joining your organization?" The following article encompasses my response.

"Hello! Thank you for your query regarding the benefits of joining our society. I believe there are many benefits of associating with this organization.

1. Since you are requesting information about this plant society, it can be presumed you are interested in plants and growing. This organization provides access to rare and unique plant material, much of which is unavailable anywhere else, via plant sales, auctions, and raffles held at chapter meetings and annual conventions.
2. A subscription to our quarterly publication, soon to be known as *GESNERIADS* (currently published as *THE GLOXINIAN, the Journal for Gesneriad Growers*). This journal is an excellent resource, and within it you will find:
  - a. A mixture of botanical articles by scientific experts and horticultural articles by "real people" who grow these plants in their homes all over the world.
  - b. A Seed Fund for members only. It is listed in its entirety twice a year and updated in subsequent issues. This Seed Fund is the largest source of gesneriad seed available in the world. Many species are available via our Seed Fund only; nowhere else. Much hybrid gesneriad seed is also offered through the Seed Fund. Seed is shipped anywhere in the world at a very nominal cost. Society members are encouraged to grow plants and replenish the Fund by donating seed back into it.
  - c. Newly registered gesneriads are listed and described in the journal shortly after they are released.
  - d. Numerous color photographs of gesneriads in every issue.
  - e. Reports on local and international activities such as our annual conventions, symposia on gesneriads and other meetings.
  - f. Reports on gesneriad-related research, some of which is funded by the Society.
  - g. Articles about gesneriads growing in the wild, written by plant explorers and/or members who live in areas where gesneriads grow.
3. Judging schools. Membership entitles you an opportunity to learn more about culture and grooming of these plants for show. This in turn provides opportunities to judge and clerk at convention and local shows.
4. Support of gesneriad research via the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund.
5. The opportunity to join local chapters and groups. Chapters provide benefits themselves by offering insurance, slide programs, and publicity for flower shows and sales via notices in our journal and on our web site.
6. Access to a network of knowledgeable growers and hybridizers to present programs and workshops to chapters and groups.

7. Attendees of the annual convention bring back ideas and plant materials to their home chapters and groups. The conventions offer the opportunity to travel to different areas and find that you already have friends there. This is a real advantage for those who may live alone and/or have no home chapter.
8. Opportunities to serve as officers, directors, committee chairs, staff, etc., in a vibrant organization of dedicated individuals who love gesneriads and who want to share plants, experiences, and information, and "spread the word" about these wonderful plants.

With such an array of benefits of membership, I would be glad to welcome you into the ranks of our membership."

## Chapters and Affiliates

---

M.J. Tyler <tippea@earthlink.net>  
P.O. Box 1159, Poulsbo, WA 98370 USA

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Chapters and Affiliates Chair for The Gesneriad Society. It will be a challenge to do justice to a position that Arleen Dewell filled with such grace and style. Many members may remember "meeting" me when my late husband Dave and I managed the membership function for our Society from 1994 to the turn of the century. It will be great to deepen the friendships that started then.

I have been a gesneriad grower since the early 1980's when I purchased a tiny *Sinningia pusilla* in a clear plastic egg while on a visit to an orchid nursery in the San Francisco Bay Area. To my astonishment, the plant produced babies, and I needed the little egg containers to pot them on and share this wonder. My search led me to the San Francisco Chapter of our Society and to many years of enjoyment. Participation in a chapter is as much about the plants, their growing methods and the fantastic variety of types, as about the people who share my addiction.

When I retired from an administrative position at the University of California, Berkeley, and moved to the Puget Sound area in 1994, the welcome mat was already out for me at another warm and knowledgeable local chapter. Through participating in judging shows, I have also come to share the friendship offered by our chapter in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Each time I travel to a convention hosted in a different region of the U.S. or Canada, I am struck by the generosity of those chapter members who make the event possible. Belonging to a chapter really is an enriching experience in every way. I hope to be able to help our existing chapters develop and grow as well as encourage new chapters and affiliates to form. Please feel free to contact me at any time by phone (360-779-3101) or at either of the addresses above if you have any questions or if you need to update the information we publish about our chapters and their presidents.

## GROW WITH US — JOIN A CHAPTER

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona	<b>Desert Sun African Violet and Gesneriad Society</b> — Ann Stoetzer, 8327 W. Claremont St., Glendale, AZ 85305-2529 <b>Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society</b> — Deb Weinman, 4587 N. Avenida del Cazador, Tucson, AZ 84718
Arkansas	<b>Northwest Arkansas Gloxinia &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — David Harris, 1372 S. Kentwood Ave., Springfield, MO 65804-0220
California	<b>American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco</b> — Katherine Henwood, 819 Linda Mar Blvd, Pacifica, CA 94044 <b>Culver City</b> — Charlotte Rosengrant, 2705 Krim Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90094 <b>Delta Gesneriad &amp; African Violet Society</b> — Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713-9218 <b>Grow and Study</b> — Al Striepens, 2225 Deepgrove Ave., Rowland Heights, CA 91748-4208 <b>Peninsula</b> — JoAnna Behl, 361 Tioga Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306
Colorado	<b>Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers</b> — Ann Watterson, 8360 W. 70th Ave., Arvada, CO 80004
Connecticut	<b>Connecticut</b> — (Contact) Marcia Kilpatrick, 139 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247-1112
Delaware	<b>Delaware</b> — Diane Abrahamson, 4003 Greenmount Road, Wilmington, DE 19810-3303
Florida	<b>Caribbean Basin AV &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — Allan L. Mink, 430 E. Dayton Circle, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312 <b>Suncoast</b> — Melissa McDowell, 1502 Eastbrook Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231 <b>Tampa Bay</b> — Jo Anne Martinez, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613
Georgia	<b>Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group</b> — William Crews, 5862 Musket Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-1707
Illinois	<b>Northern Illinois</b> — Bob Nicholson, 8926 N. Greenwood Ave., PMB #282, Niles, IL 60714
Kansas/Missouri	<b>Heart of America</b> — Dona Stilwell, 611 S.E. 4th Terrace, Lees Summit, MO 64063
Massachusetts	<b>New England</b> — Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Rd., Stow, MA 01775-1604
Michigan	<b>Southeastern Michigan</b> — Richard Holzman, 3836 Jennings, Troy, MI 48083
Minnesota	<b>Twin Cities Area</b> — Michael Derksen, 8213 Pillsbury Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420-2239
Missouri	<b>Gateway West</b> — Gary Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Road, Hillsboro, MO 63050
New Hampshire	<b>Granite State AV &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — Lisa DiMambro, 182 Old Chester Tnpk., Chester, NH 03036-4016
New Jersey	<b>Frelinghuysen Arboretum</b> — Ginny Heatter, 36 Bound Brook Rd., Lake Parsippany, NJ 07054
New York	<b>The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York</b> — Michael Kotarski, 427 Chicora Rd., Lewiston, NY 14092 <b>Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York</b> — Irwin Wagman, 52 Harper Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534 <b>Greater New York</b> — Tsuh Yang Chen, 36 Crooke Ave., F7, Brooklyn, NY 11226 <b>Long Island</b> — Ben Paternoster, 14 Coptor Ct., Huntington, NY 11743 <b>Vestal African Violet &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — Colin Dimon, 833 E. Circle Drive, Vestal, NY 13850
Oregon	<b>Mt. Hood</b> — Vivian Scheans, 4660 SW Dogwood Drive, Lake Oswego, OR 97035-8412
Pennsylvania	<b>Liberty Bell</b> — Stephen Maciejewski, 2030 Fitzwater Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 <b>Pittsburgh African Violet &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — Georgene Albrecht, 101 Oak Heights Dr., Oakdale, PA 15071
Tennessee	<b>Tennessee</b> — Jonathan Ertelt, 2536 Blair Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212
Washington	<b>Puget Sound</b> — M.J. Tyler, P.O. Box 1159, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Washington, DC	<b>National Capital</b> — Laurene Jones, 3430 Luttrell Rd., Annandale, VA 22003-1269
Canada	<b>Carefree</b> — Florence Duesterbeck, 2235 Montreal Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1L7, Canada <b>Edmonton</b> — La Rae Pohl, 7544-152C Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5C 3L3 Canada <b>Toronto</b> — Paul Lee, 2nd Line 6693 RR #3, Fergus, Ont. N1M 2W4 Canada <b>Vancouver AV &amp; Gesneriad Society</b> — Arleen Dewell, #311-2366 Wall St., Vancouver, BC, V5L 4Y1 Canada
Sweden	<b>Gesneriasts of Sweden</b> — Åsa Tysk, Ölandsresan 118, 757 55 Uppsala, Sweden

**Go to [www.aggs.org](http://www.aggs.org) for chapter email contacts.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Membership Cards:** The address label on the back cover of THE GLOXINIAN is your membership card.

**Bylaws:** Copies of AGGS Bylaws are available to all members by writing to Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

**Chapters:** Report changes of chapter presidents to the Chapters and Affiliates Chair and the Editor.

## Contributions and Insurance

The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization with an IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax status for donations. Contact the AGGS Treasurer at <hmbort@olypen.com> or send your donations to:

Helen Bortvedt, 20 Beeson Road, P.O. Box 2584, Sequim, WA 98382-8870

## Membership and Changes of Address

AGGS Membership Secretary, Bob Clark, 1122 East Pike Street, PMB 637,  
Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA

**Changes of Address** — Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary <membership@aggs.org> 90 days prior to moving to avoid missing an issue. THE GLOXINIAN is not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late notification of address changes. Back issues may be ordered from AGGS Publications.

**Renewals** — Send dues to the Membership Secretary. A Renewal Notice is sent two months prior to the expiration date of your membership. (The expiration date is printed on your mailing label/membership card on the back cover of THE GLOXINIAN.) Please remit your dues prior to the expiration date to avoid missing an issue as we are not responsible for replacing issues missed because of late payment of dues. Back issues may be ordered from AGGS Publications.

## Application for Membership — *American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society*

WELCOME — membership in our international society includes quarterly issues of THE GLOXINIAN — *The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*, a copy of *How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*, a packet of gesneriad seeds and a wealth of information about our AGGS Chapters, Flower Shows, Publications, Research, Slide Programs and Seed Fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

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